



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region IX**

**Ten Mile River  
Total Maximum Daily Load  
for Sediment**

**PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT**

**November 9, 2000**

Approved by:

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Alexis Strauss  
Director, Water Division

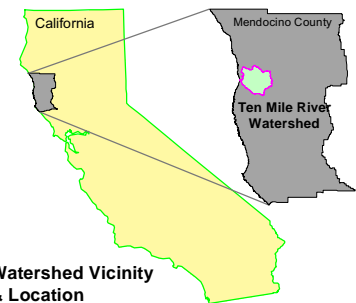
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Date

**FIGURE 1**  
**TEN MILE RIVER WATERSHED**  
**TMDL Planning Areas**  
**and Sub-Watersheds**

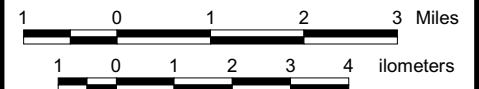
- Watershed Boundary**
- Planning Watersheds**
- North Fork
  - Middle Fork
  - South Fork
  - Mainstem
- Streams**
- Perennial
  - Intermittent
  - Ephemeral
- Sub-Watersheds**
- Former USGS Gauge**

Map Data Source: California Department of Forestry



Presented By  
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 July 18, 2000

Scale: 1 = 130,000



TMDL Planning Area		
Sub-Watershed	Acres	Sq. Miles
<b>North Fork</b>	<b>24,943</b>	<b>38.97</b>
Upper North Fork Ten Mile River	6,655	10.40
Middle North Fork Ten Mile River	5,748	8.98
Bald Hill Creek	3,289	5.14
Little North Fork Ten Mile River	4,960	7.75
Lower North Fork Ten Mile River	4,291	6.70
<b>Middle Fork</b>	<b>21,414</b>	<b>33.45</b>
Upper Mdl. Fork Ten Mile River	7,452	11.64
Middle Mdl. Fork Ten Mile River	4,126	6.45
Little Bear Haven Creek	1,922	3.00
Bear Haven Creek	4,224	6.60
Lower Mdl. Fork Ten Mile River	3,689	5.76
<b>South Fork</b>	<b>24,567</b>	<b>38.39</b>
Upper South Fork Ten Mile River	5,236	8.18
Redwood Creek	5,038	7.87
Churchman Creek	2,537	3.96
Middle South Fork Ten Mile River	3,531	5.52
Campbell Creek	2,720	4.25
Smith Creek	3,511	5.49
Lower South Fork Ten Mile River	1,994	3.12
<b>Mainstem</b>	<b>5,653</b>	<b>8.83</b>
Mainstem Ten Mile River	2,737	4.28
Mill Creek	1,737	2.71
Ten Mile River Estuary	1,179	1.84

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Ten Mile River drains 120 square miles of forested, coastal watershed in Mendocino County, California. Its history is largely defined by timber harvest, which began in the lower basin about 1870. Its logging history dates back to the 1850s. Old growth logging continued into the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Second growth logging began in the 1960s and continues today. Most of the watershed is managed by Campbell Timberlands, Inc., and was purchased from Georgia-Pacific West, Inc. in 1999. A handful of small rural residential and non-industrial timber ownerships are also in the watershed.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is establishing the Ten Mile River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for sediment to identify sediment loading allocations that, when implemented, are expected to result in the attainment of the applicable water quality criteria for sediment, which are established to protect the beneficial uses of the Ten Mile River. EPA will establish the TMDL for Sediment for the Ten Mile River by 31 December 2000 in order to meet EPA's obligations under a consent decree (*Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermern's Associations, et al., v Marcus, No.95-4474 MHP, March 11, 1997*). The primary beneficial use of concern in the Ten Mile River watershed is the salmonid fishery, particularly the coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) fishery.

### SECTION 303(d) AND THE TEN MILE RIVER WATERSHED

The Ten Mile River watershed was listed on the 1998 303(d) list by the State of California pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. This list describes water bodies that do not meet water quality standards. It also describes the pollutant(s) for each water body that limit(s) its use or prevent(s) attainment of its water quality objectives. As required by Section 303(d), a TMDL must be developed for water bodies on the 303(d) list. For the Ten Mile River watershed, the listing was the result of water quality problems related to sedimentation throughout the watershed. Sedimentation was determined to be impacting the cold water fishery, a beneficial use of the Ten Mile River watershed, including the migration, spawning, reproduction, and early development of cold water fish such as coho salmon and steelhead trout. Cold freshwater and estuarine habitats are also designated beneficial uses of the Ten Mile River watershed.

### COMPONENTS OF THE TMDL

The TMDL includes:

- Problem statement;
- Numeric targets;
- Source analysis;
- Linkage analysis and loading capacity;
- TMDL and load allocations;
- Discussion of the margin of safety, seasonal variation and critical conditions.
- Implementation recommendations; and
- Discussion of public participation.

There are two significant sources of information and analysis for this TMDL. The first is an assessment of aquatic conditions (Clyde and Mangelsdorf 2000), which analyzes all the data that could be found about instream conditions and the relationships to salmonid distribution and abundance. The second is a sediment source analysis (GMA 2000), which also includes considerable analysis of hydrologic and geomorphic data.

### **Problem Statement**

The problem statement includes an assessment of existing conditions that led to the 303(d) listing of the water body. The watershed is divided into four Planning Watersheds (PW): North Fork, Middle (Clark) Fork, South Fork, and Mainstem Ten Mile River (see Figure 1).

Coho salmon, steelhead trout, and possibly chinook salmon are native to the Ten Mile River. Coho and chinook salmon populations have declined significantly in recent years. High concentrations of channel-bottom fine sediment, excessive gravel embeddedness, inadequate pool frequency and depth, lack of large woody debris, appear to be factors directly and indirectly related to sediment that are currently limiting the success of salmonids (especially coho salmon) throughout the watershed. It is possible that chinook were also native to the basin, but were locally extirpated prior to the 1950s (Shapavalov 1948, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000; L. Clyde pers.comm. 2000). Steelhead populations appear to have remained stable (suggesting that conditions are not as critical as in other basins, where steelhead populations have plummeted). Chinook salmon were re-introduced to the watershed in large numbers beginning in 1979. Coho and steelhead were also planted, in lower numbers, beginning in the 1950s. Because steelhead populations appear to be stable and chinook data are lacking, this assessment concentrates on the water-quality conditions that would support coho. Nevertheless, the water quality improvements addressed in this document will lead to conditions supporting cold freshwater habitats and beneficial uses generally.

### **Water Quality Targets**

The numeric targets interpret water quality standards and provide indicators of watershed health. In particular, they describe in-stream and watershed conditions suitable for the successful migration, spawning, rearing, and over-wintering of coho salmon in the fresh water environment. The indicators and targets are identified in Table 1. EPA believes that the Regional Water Board should coordinate with landowners to develop a monitoring plan that concentrates on the indicators that are most effective in determining improving water quality conditions. In particular, the indicator for substrate quality ( $\leq 14\%$  (mean) fines  $< 0.85$  mm) provides a good instream indicator, and it would be valuable to have additional information on this indicator in tributaries that may also be subject to upcoming management activities.  $V^*$  is also recommended (value  $\leq 0.21$ ). Other targets (thalweg profile, and several aquatic habitat characteristic indicators) are expressed as improving trends, because there is no inherent target value that indicates adequate water quality, and because the literature does not suggest that a particular value is appropriate. EPA hopes that the indicators will be incorporated into the ongoing monitoring program in the basin. Substrate composition and  $V^*$  are relatively simple to monitor, and should be monitored regularly. Thalweg profiles better monitored on an infrequent basis, and potentially after large floods. The habitat characteristic indicators (e.g., presence of C-type channel, increasing distribution of primary pools, scour pools and large woody debris-formed habitat) are included as a group, primarily because the existing data for the basin suggests conditions that

would facilitate coho support in conjunction with reduced sediment loads. Thus, they are based on apparent correlations with the presence or absence of coho, rather than an interpretation of water quality standards. They are also good integrators of multiple stressors, including sediment loads. EPA is seeking comment on their inclusion as indicators.

Road and hillslope indicators are also established to define watershed conditions needed to protect water quality. They relate directly to the delivery of sediment to a watercourse.

### **Source Analysis**

The source analysis includes an assessment of sources of sediment historically and/or presently impacting water quality. Several factors have contributed to the increased sediment delivery above natural rates throughout the watershed. The most important include high rates of timber harvest and associated road building, both historically (particularly prior to institution of the Forest Practice Rules) and currently (particularly in the South Fork Planning Watershed); high road densities; and, historically, high densities of skid trails. While overall rates have declined in the 67-year study period from 1933-1999, sediment generation from road surface erosion has increased. Current sediment delivery rate is estimated at 629 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr, with about 50% of that management related.

### **Linkage Analysis and Loading Capacity**

The linkage analysis defines the relationship between the targets, water quality factors affecting those targets, and hillslope sediment production processes affecting the water quality conditions. It provides a basis for estimating the water body's capacity to assimilate sediment inputs while still protecting beneficial uses, and for determining the magnitude of necessary sediment reductions and associated hillslope controls necessary to attain water quality standards and protect the beneficial uses. The linkage is based on a weight-of-evidence approach, with a qualitative determination that load reductions will result in reduced in-stream sediment, which will improve water quality and attain water quality standards. The Ten Mile River basin and the Noyo River basin have essentially the same capacity to assimilate sediment loading. This determination is appropriate because the two basins are close in proximity, and have similar characteristics of geology, vegetation, orientation, and land use history.

### **TMDL and Load Allocations**

EPA is setting the TMDL equal to the loading capacity, at a level expected to result in attainment of the applicable water quality criteria for sediment. EPA is defining the current loading capacity of the Ten Mile River to be equivalent to the sediment loading capacity for the Noyo River TMDL. EPA is seeking comment on two alternatives to express that loading. The first alternative uses the same loading capacity and TMDL as the Noyo River, which is 470 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr. For the Ten Mile, 311 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr is attributable to background sources. The remaining 159 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr is allocated among road surface erosion (78 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr), skid trails (12 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr) and management-related landsliding (69 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr). Under this alternative, an overall reduction of approximately 50% of current management sources would be needed to achieve these loadings, with the most aggressive reductions needed for road surface erosion.

EPA is also seeking comment on a second alternative load allocation, also based on the Noyo River TMDL. In this case, the loading capacity and TMDL for the Ten Mile River (390

tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr, or 25% over background) was determined based on the relative amounts of management-related and background rates of sediment production described in the Noyo River TMDL. Under this alternative, even greater reductions of management-related sources would be needed to meet the allocations: 75% overall reductions, nearly 85% of road surface erosion and nearly 60% of landsliding.

The proposed TMDLs and Load Allocations are expressed as an average annual loading rate, and is intended to be interpreted as a 10-year rolling average, which more appropriately describes sediment loadings that can achieve water quality conditions than if it were expressed as a daily load.

In summary:  $TMDL = \text{Background loading} + WLA + LA$

Background = 311 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for the Ten Mile River

WLA (Waste Load Allocation) = 0, as there are no point sources in the basin.

Alternative 1: LA = 470 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr (about a 50% reduction over current estimates).

Alternative 2: LA = 390 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr (about a 75% reduction over current estimates).

### **Margin of Safety, Seasonal Variation and Critical Conditions**

Because sediment production within a watershed does not always coincide with sediment delivery to streams, which is inherently variable, both temporally and spatially, the sediment allocations are designed to apply to the sources of sediment, not the movement or delivery of the sediment to the streams. They are also defined as 10-year rolling averages.

Likewise, the condition of the in-stream environment displays temporal and spatial variability, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, (Regional Water Board) has expressed its intention to analyze the in-stream targets as 10-year rolling averages. In addition, the hillslope targets are specifically designed with variations in rainfall and peak flows in mind.

Also, the TMDL contains an implicit margin of safety in order to ensure that the allocations, when achieved, will result in attainment of the applicable water quality criteria for sediment, given the uncertainties in the analysis. This TMDL does not explicitly estimate critical flow conditions for several reasons: 1) sediment impacts on beneficial uses may occur long after sediment is discharged, often at locations far downstream from the point of discharge; 2) sediment impacts are rarely correlated closely with flow over short time periods and 3) it is impractical to accurately measure sediment loading, transport, and short-term effects during high magnitude flow events which usually produce most sediment loading and channel modifications. Therefore, the approach used in this TMDL to account for critical conditions is to include indicators that can address sediment sources and watershed conditions, addressing lag times from production to delivery, and which are reflective of the net long-term effects of sediment loading, transport, deposition, and associated receiving water flows. Instream indicators may be effectively measured at lower flow conditions at roughly annual intervals, and hillslope indicators can assist in tracking the implementation of measures to improve water quality conditions.

**Table 1: Summary of Numeric and Other Targets**

Indicator	Target	Monitoring Suggestions	References (as cited in EPA 1999, unless noted)
Substrate Composition	#14% (mean, as wet volume) fines <0.85 mm, in pool tail-outs or potential spawning areas	Expand use to other tributaries; monitor frequently	Burns, 1970; CDF, 1994, Mangelsdorf & Lundborg 1998
V*	#0.21 (mean) in pools	Monitor frequently, throughout basin.	Knopp, 1993
Thalweg profile	Increasing variation in thalweg elevation around the mean thalweg slope	Monitor infrequently, to determine gross changes.	Trush, 1999; Madej, 1999
Habitat Characteristic Indicators	Increasing trends in the distribution of habitat indicators for good coho streams in the Ten Mile: -distribution of scour pools and large woody debris-formed habitat; -No. of reaches where summer MWAT <16.8C.	Monitor new habitat areas as appropriate. Monitor summer MWAT regularly.	Flosi et al. 1998; DFG 1995 (a) and (b) (cited in Mangelsdorf & Clyde 2000)
<b>Road/Hillslope Indicators</b>			
Stream crossings with diversion potential	#1% of all stream crossings, as a result of a storm with a 100-year recurrence interval or less		Weaver and Hagans, 1994; D. Hagans pers. comm. w/ A. Mangelsdorf as reported in Regional Water Board, 1999
Stream crossings with significant crossing failure potential	#1% of all stream crossings, as a result of a storm with a 100-year recurrence interval or less		Flanagan et al., 1998
Hydrologic connectivity	Decrease in the miles of road hydrologically connected to a watercourse		Ziemer, 1998; Furniss, 1999
Disturbed area	Decrease in the area disturbed by facilities <sup>+</sup>		Lewis, 1998
Activity in unstable areas	No activities (e.g., roads, harvest, yarding, etc.) in unstable areas (e.g., steep slopes, headwall swales, inner gorges, streambanks, etc.) unless a detailed geological assessment is performed that shows there is no potential for increased sediment delivery to a watercourse as a result.		Dietrich et al., 1998; Weaver and Hagans, 1994; Pitlick, 1982; Pacific Watershed Associates, 1998

<sup>+</sup>A facility is defined as any management-related structure such as a road, railroad roadbed, skid trail, landing, harvest unit, animal holding pen, or agricultural field (e.g., pasture, vineyard, orchard, row crops). For the purpose of this target, a harvest unit or agricultural field that retains its natural characteristics with respect to rainfall interception, rainfall infiltration, and soil protection, is not considered a "facility."

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

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### TMDL PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Ten Mile River TMDL for sediment is to identify sediment loading allocations that, when implemented, are expected to result in the attainment of the applicable water quality standards for sediment, as required by Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. These criteria are established in order to protect beneficial uses. The most sensitive beneficial use of concern is the cold water fishery, particularly for the coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) fishery.

The Ten Mile River watershed was included on the State of California's list of impaired waterbodies (also known as the "303(d) list") due to sediment, which was determined to be impacting the cold water fishery, including migration, spawning, reproduction, and early development of cold water fish such as coho salmon and steelhead trout. Cold freshwater and estuarine habitats are also designated uses of the Ten Mile River watershed, which are listed in the North Coast Basin Plan. Nonpoint source silviculture was identified as the probable cause of the impairment in the 303(d) list. EPA will establish the TMDL for Sediment for the Ten Mile River by 31 December 2000 in order to meet EPA's obligations under a consent decree (*Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, et al., v Marcus, No.95-4474 MHP, March 11, 1997*).

Pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, this TMDL uses best available information to describe the water quality problem, define conditions that would indicate achievement of water quality standards, analyze sources of sediment, describe the linkages between aquatic conditions, watershed conditions and sediment loads, determine the maximum sediment loading that the water body appears capable of assimilating, while still meeting water quality standards (i.e., the TMDL), and allocate that load amongst known sediment sources. Because the state of scientific knowledge defining these linkages is limited, and because there is uncertainty associated with that knowledge, the analysis relies on conservative assumptions where appropriate.

One of the benefits of this TMDL is to bring together all available information on water quality conditions in the basin. EPA hopes that the Regional Water Board, landowners and community members will be able to use the information summarized in the TMDL and associated documents (Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000, GMA 2000) to implement the most effective water quality improvements in the basin, and to revise the TMDL if necessary in the future.

### WATERSHED CHARACTERISTICS

For the purposes of the analysis, the four Planning Watersheds (PW) have been defined, corresponding to the North, Middle and South Fork tributaries and the Lower Mainstem Ten Mile. These have also been divided into 20 subwatersheds (SW), as shown in Figure 1.

The Ten Mile River drains about 120 square miles of forested, coastal watershed in Mendocino County, California (see Figure 1). The mouth of the Ten Mile River is about 10 miles north of Fort Bragg. The watershed elevation ranges from sea level to 3,240 feet at Strong Peak. It is entirely privately owned, with Hawthorne Timber Company (managed by Campbell Timberland Management), the successor to Georgia-Pacific West, owning about 85% of the watershed. Three small non-industrial timber owners and a handful of other residences are in the watershed. Precipitation ranges from about 40 inches near the coast to greater than 70 inches at higher elevations in the northern and eastern portions of the watershed. Most precipitation occurs as rainfall. The terrain varies from the flat estuary and broad river floodplain to rugged mountainous topography with high relief (GMA 2000).

## **PLANNING WATERSHEDS**

The Ten Mile River has three main forks: the North Fork, Middle Fork (also known as the Clark Fork), and the South Fork. Each of these tributary watersheds form an approximately equal size planning watersheds, ranging in area from 33 to 39 square miles, with an additional 9-square mile lower Mainstem Planning Watershed. Most of the basin, aside from the northeast grasslands area, is characterized by steep, narrow drainages bordered by steep to moderately steep slopes leading to the headwaters of the tributaries. The lower portion of the South Fork Planning Watershed, like the lower Middle Fork and much of the lower Mainstem, has broad alluvial valleys bordered by high relief terrain. The headwaters of the North Fork are characterized by relatively gentle terrain, while the Middle and South Forks headwaters area are characterized more by summits and ridgelines. Inner gorge topography locally characterizes portions of the tributaries. Fluvial cut terraces are also present locally, except along the Middle Fork. Most of the drainages are narrow, with steep to moderately steep slopes: 60-80% of the basin area is in 15-35% slopes. Less than 3% of the area has slopes greater than 40% (GMA 2000).

The bedrock geology of the watershed is dominated by rocks of the Franciscan Complex, primarily the relatively coherent and stable Coastal Belt Terrane. Relatively incoherent Central Belt Terrane rocks crop out in the northeastern area in the headwaters of the North Fork, and are responsible for the subdued topography in that area. These rocks are overlain by a variety of surficial deposits, varying locally from beach sand, marine terrace deposits, dune sands, estuary deposits, landslide debris, alluvium, and soil and colluvium (GMA 2000).

## **WATERSHED HISTORY**

The history of the Ten Mile River watershed is largely defined by timber harvest, which began in the lower basin about 1870. The first railroad in the area was developed in the 1910s, connecting the South Fork Ten Mile with the mill in Fort Bragg. Railroads were extended into the Middle and North Forks by the early 1920s. Until about 1940, the South Fork provided the major log supply to that mill. In the 1930s, tractor logging began to replace railroad logging, and most of the railroad grades were converted to roads. Major portions of the watershed were harvested between the mid 1940s and the mid 1960s, using tractor yarding, with its associated road, skid trail and landing construction. Since the passage of the Forest Practices Act in 1973,

tractor logging has been restricted primarily to gentler slopes (although it still accounts for 40-80% of the harvest), and the use of cable yarding has increased on steeper slopes. Relative to the 1940-1960 period, harvest levels were apparently far lower between the late 1960s and the mid 1980s, because the forest was fairly well depleted and was left to regenerate. Current harvest levels have increased, particularly in the South Fork, with the maturity of second growth forests, and most of the watershed is managed using about a 60 year average rotation age (GMA 2000).

## **Information Sources**

Information for this TMDL came from a variety of sources. Much of the analysis is summarized from an assessment of watershed conditions conducted by staff of the Regional Water Board (Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000), and a sediment source analysis developed by GMA (2000), who conducted the analysis for EPA as a subcontractor to Tetra Tech, Inc. Primary sources of data for the studies were: the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), California Department of Forestry (CDF), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and Campbell Timberlands Management and its predecessor, Georgia-Pacific West, Inc. (Campbell/GP). DFG provided historic aquatic surveys as well as some fish distribution and aquatic habitat data. CDF provided Timber Harvest Plan (THP) data. Campbell/GP provided monitoring data on substrate conditions and fish populations. USGS provided stream flow and topographic data. Sources cited in this TMDL were originally cited in Mangelsdorf and Clyde (2000) and GMA (2000).

This TMDL does not include the same level of detail found in the two supporting documents.

This TMDL does include:

- Problem statement, including a discussion of existing water quality requirements;
- Water quality targets;
- Source analysis;
- Linkage analysis;
- TMDL and load allocations;
- Discussion of the margin of safety, seasonal variation, and critical conditions;
- Recommendations pertaining to implementation and monitoring; and
- Discussion of public participation.

The problem statement includes an assessment of existing in-stream and watershed conditions. The numeric targets interpret water quality standards and provide indicators of watershed health, and compare existing and target conditions. The source analysis includes an assessment of sources of sediment historically and/or presently impacting water quality. The linkage analysis provides the basis for estimating the assimilative capacity of the water body (the loading capacity, or TMDL) and determining the maximum sediment loads allowable consistent with that capacity that are protective of water quality standards and beneficial uses. The load allocation(s) are the assignment of maximum sediment loads from different source categories necessary to attain water quality standards and protect beneficial uses. The margin of safety and seasonal variation discussions summarize the means by which the final load allocations account for any uncertainty in the data or data analysis, and temporal effects in the load allocation(s). A discussion of recommendations for the future development of an implementation plan and monitoring plan is included. A discussion of public participation is also included.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

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The Basin Plan identifies municipal, industrial, agricultural and recreational uses of the Ten Mile River watershed. As with many of the North Coast watersheds, the primary beneficial use of concern in the Ten Mile River watershed, as described in the *Water Quality Control Plan, North Coast Region* (Basin Plan), is the cold freshwater fishery, which supports coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and introduced chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). In particular, the coho salmon fishery appears to be the most sensitive use, on which beneficial use support can be gaged. Accordingly, protection of the coho fishery is presumed to protect any of the other beneficial uses that might also be harmed by sedimentation.

### **WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

Water quality standards (WQS) adopted for the Ten Mile River basin are contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (the Basin Plan, NCRWQCB, 1994). The WQS for the Ten Mile river are comprised of the beneficial uses of water and the water quality objectives designed to protect the most sensitive of the beneficial uses. The Basin Plan identifies the following existing beneficial uses that are related to the Ten Mile River's cold water fishery:

- Commercial and sport fishing (COMM);
- Cold freshwater habitat (COLD);
- Migration of aquatic organisms (MIGR);
- Spawning, reproduction, and early development (SPWN); and
- Estuarine habitat (EST).

The COMM beneficial use applies to water bodies in which commercial or sport fishing occurs or historically occurred for the collection of fish, shellfish, or other organisms, including, but not limited to, the collection of organisms intended either for human consumption or bait purposes. The COLD beneficial use applies to water bodies that support or historically supported cold water ecosystems, including, but not limited to, the preservation or enhancement of aquatic habitats, vegetation, fish, or wildlife, including invertebrates. The MIGR beneficial use applies to water bodies that support or historically supported the habitats necessary for migration or other temporary activities by aquatic organisms, such as anadromous fish. The SPWN beneficial use applies to water bodies that support or historically supported high quality aquatic habitats suitable for the reproduction and early development of fish. The EST beneficial use applies to water bodies that support or historically supported estuarine ecosystems, including, but not limited to, the preservation or enhancement of estuarine habitats, vegetation, fish, shellfish, or wildlife (e.g., estuarine mammals, waterfowl, shorebirds).

### **Water Quality Objectives**

The Basin Plan establishes four water quality objectives pertaining to suspended material, settleable material, sediment, and turbidity:

“Waters shall not contain suspended material in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.”

“Waters shall not contain substances in concentrations that result in deposition of material that causes nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.”

“The suspended sediment load and suspended sediment discharge rate of surface waters shall not be altered in such a manner as to cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

“Turbidity shall not be increased more than 20 percent above naturally occurring background levels. Allowable zones of dilution within which higher percentages can be tolerated may be defined for specific discharges upon the issuance of discharge permits or waiver thereof.”

In addition to the water quality objectives, the Basin Plan includes two discharge prohibitions specifically applicable to logging, construction and other associated activities. These are included in the action plan for these activities.

“The discharge of soil, silt, bark, slash, sawdust, or other organic and earthen material from any logging, construction or associated activity of whatever nature into any stream or watercourse in the basin in quantities deleterious to fish, wildlife, or other beneficial uses is prohibited.”

“The placing or disposal of soil, silt, bark, slash, sawdust, or other organic and earthen material from any logging, construction, or associated activity of whatever nature at locations where such material could pass into any stream or watercourse in the basin in quantities which could be deleterious to fish, wildlife, or other beneficial uses is prohibited.”

## **SEDIMENT PROBLEMS**

The cold water fishery is the most impaired beneficial use in the basin. Fish populations in the basin depend on a number of internal and external factors, including: habitat availability and quality (determined by stream flow, channel form and structure, and physical barriers); water temperature; water chemistry; food supply; and predation. For anadromous salmonids, these factors are important at the spawning and rearing sites as well as along migration routes and into the ocean. While all these factors as a whole can affect salmonid populations, this TMDL addresses only those factors related to sediment discharge in the Ten Mile basin and its affect on water quality standards.

The source of the problem within the Ten Mile River basin has been identified as sediment, particularly from timber harvest activities. In particular, the concentration of fine sediments in many stream channel reaches appears to be too high to support egg survival and fry emergence: excess fine sediment can prevent adequate water flow through salmon redds, or nests, which is critical for maintaining adequate oxygen levels and removing metabolic wastes. Deposits of these finer sediments can also prevent the hatching fry from emerging from the redds, resulting in smothering. Gravels in the basin are also generally embedded, which can prevent redds from

being constructed: the spawning fish essentially slap their tails against the channel bottom, which lifts unembedded gravels, removes some of the fine sediment, and leaves the cleaner gravel in a pile. In addition, the total sediment load to the Ten Mile River and its tributaries is too high. Consistently high influxes of sediment can result in large changes in aquatic habitat: lower water depths, which decreases the amount of protective shelter for the fish and potentially can increase temperatures; decreased numbers and depths of pools, which become filled with sediment; decreased variety in the types of pools, such as those formed by large woody debris (“LWD”), which provide essential shelter for coho. Decreased availability of large woody debris in the stream from timber harvest activity (i.e., removing it from streamside areas) can also decrease shelter for fish directly, and can indirectly result in decreased pool habitat, since the LWD also provides a geomorphic function of sediment metering in the stream. Many of these factors interact with sediment loading to provide a crucial influence on the water quality of the stream. (Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000).

While some sediment load in the stream is natural, much of the excess sediment is directly and indirectly caused by management activities. In the Ten Mile River basin, the management factors are particularly related to timber harvest. For example, timber harvest activities can result in excess sediment loads in the stream as a result of road construction and use (sediment discharged into the basin from road crossing failures, surface erosion and deposition, and landsliding associated with road location and construction) as well as the actual harvesting of timber (which causes ground disturbance and surface erosion or could trigger landslides and other ground failures that deliver directly to the stream).

## **COHO SALMON DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE**

Brown et al. (1994 in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) report that coho salmon previously occurred in as many as 582 California streams from the Smith River near the Oregon border to the San Lorenzo River on the central coast. There are now probably less than 5,000 native coho salmon spawning in California each year, many in populations of less than 100 individuals. Coho populations today are probably less than 6% of what they were in the 1940s and there has been at least a 70% decline since the 1960s. Brown et al. (1994 in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) conclude that the reasons for the decline of coho salmon in California include: stream alterations brought about by poor land-use practices and by the effects of periodic floods and drought, the breakdown of genetic integrity of native stocks, introduced diseases, over-harvest, and climatic change. Many factors may have contributed to the decline in salmonid populations, but EPA has concluded that impacts to freshwater habitat from an overabundance of sediment is an important one.

In the early 1960’s the Ten Mile River was estimated to have a coho run of 6,000 fish, according to the California Wildlife Plan, published by the Fish and Game Commission in 1965. The California Wildlife Plan also noted that fishery habitat conditions in the Ten Mile River were severely degraded by logging activity. The decline in water quality conditions is related to an over-abundance of sediment.

Mangelsdorf and Clyde (2000) assessed aquatic conditions in the Ten Mile watershed relative to salmonid populations. This discussion is largely abstracted from that report. In conducting their assessment, they examined a wide variety of information sources, including: spawning surveys, outmigration studies, presence/absence surveys, electrofishing surveys, population estimates, habitat inventories, fine sediment data and temperature data. Relative to other basins in the Mendocino Coast, there is a considerable quantity of data available, some of it stretching over a several-year period. Nonetheless, the quantitative relationship between instream sediment quantity and quality and coho distribution and abundance is still relatively obscure. Data from the Ten Mile River watershed does, however, add to the larger pool of hypothetical relationships between coho presence and scour pool frequency, large woody debris-formed habitat frequency, and weekly average stream temperature. These relationships are also discussed in Chapter III.

Salmonid abundance has declined dramatically throughout the Mendocino Coast Hydrologic Unit. In the Ten Mile River watershed, coho populations have declined sharply during the past 3-4 decades. Available information indicates that chinook have also declined since their re-introduction to the watershed beginning in 1979, and they may have been extirpated, since chinook apparently were present in the basin in the early part of the century but were not observed naturally by mid-century (Shapavolov 1948, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000). The steelhead trout population, however, has been fairly stable and may be now surpassing the population numbers identified in the 1960s. Accordingly, this assessment focuses primarily on coho.

The California Department of Fish and Game's unpublished records indicate that coho were planted in the Ten Mile River dating back as far as 1955. The effort to restore this run by artificial propagation appears to have been unsuccessful. The Oregon coho stocks planted in the Ten Mile River basin may have been inappropriate to this watershed and habitat problems and the limitations that exist may have contributed as well (Maahs, 1994 in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000).

In an assessment of coho stocks for the Central California Coast ESU (Ecologically Significant Unit) population of coho salmon, Weitkamp et al. (1995 in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) estimate, using data from Brown et al. (1994, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000), that the recent (1980s) coho salmon spawner abundance in Mendocino County includes approximately 160 presumed native coho salmon in the Ten Mile River. However, Weitkamp et al. (1995, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) defined "native" as "lacking a history of supplementation within non-native stocks." The Ten Mile River basin was supplemented with Oregon coho stocks (and possibly other sources, though they are not documented) beginning in the mid 1950s and continuing through the mid 1990s, with a break of a little over a decade beginning in the 1980s. Still, Higgins et al. (1992, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000), as cited by NMFS (1995, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000), characterizes the coho salmon run in the Ten Mile River watershed as one of "special concern."

This TMDL will focus on excess sediment in the basin, which has been identified as a cause of the decline. Chinook populations have also declined, but this relationship would be even more difficult to identify, since they were planted in such large numbers (350,000 in 1979, 199,000 in

1981, with varying rates over the next 10 years, for a cumulative total of over 750,000 fish), and could have had a negative affect on the native or naturalized populations. The steelhead population appears to have remained stable over the years.

The most recent estimates of the coho population, from 1989 to 1996, indicate a population range of 14-351 fish, with the highest population estimates in the 1995-96 season. (Maahs and Gilleard 1994, maahs 1995-96, Maahs 1997a, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000). These fish have been found in the Little North Fork Ten Mile River, Clark Fork Ten Mile River, Bear Haven Creek, South Fork Ten Mile River, Smith Creek, Campbell Creek, and Churchman Creek. The spawning survey data indicate that the Little North Fork, Bear Haven Creek and South Fork Ten Mile River are the best locations for spawning coho.

### **Gravel mining**

Although gravel mining is another management activity in the basin, it does not appear to have contributed significantly to the sediment problems. There is no record of gravel mining impacts in the basin. Currently, Watkins Sand & Gravel is permitted by Mendocino County to remove up to 2,500 cubic yards of gravel per year from several sites in the South Fork of the Ten Mile River. Watkins and Baxman Gravel Company are both permitted to mine gravel from hillside quarries. Two earlier gravel mining operations in the basin prior to these permitted operations were unpermitted, and no record of their location, size or impact has been found.

### **Stream Improvement Activities**

Some efforts have been made at improving water quality and aquatic habitat conditions for support of salmon in the basin. From 1991-92, the Center for Education and Manpower Resources, Inc. (1993a, 1993b, 1993c, 1995a, and 1995b, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) conducted stream restoration work for G-P, installing habitat structures (e.g., scour logs and cover logs) and removing or modifying barriers in the North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork, Redwood Creek, and North Fork Redwood Creek. G-P estimates that 6.83 km (4.24 mi) of stream were made accessible to salmonids, as a result of barrier modifications (Ambrose, et al., 1996).

G-P has also conducted stream restoration and hillslope work of their own, with the intention of reducing sediment delivery and improving salmonid habitat (Ambrose et al., 1996, Ambrose and Hines, 1997, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000). G-P uses a substrate composition target of 20% fines (<0.85 mm) as the basis for identifying locations requiring sediment-related corrective action. The North Fork Planning Watershed was targeted for corrective action due to the number of sites in which fines exceeded this target, but some work was also conducted throughout the basin, including:

- Approximately 117 km (73 miles) of road were rocked from 1993-1997
- Additional installation of waterbars, mulching and silt barriers.
- Replacement of an old failing bridge with a new railcar bridge.

- Installation of new and upgraded culverts and other in-stream crossing structures, and removal of other fish migration barriers.
- In the North Fork Planning Watershed, 3 dirt stringer bridges were replaced with railcar bridges.
- Rip-rap was placed at the toes of three stream bank erosion sites near the main haul road in the North Fork Ten Mile River.
- Vegetation was planted along the stream banks of newly constructed bridges and crossings.

G-P's efforts at restoration have probably improved habitat conditions for salmonids at certain locations; however, this alone has not been adequate to alleviate the excessive stream-delivered sediment that has resulted in not meeting water quality standards. EPA concludes that reducing the overall sediment loading rate is needed to facilitate achievement of water quality standards in the basin, although continued stream improvement activities will probably hasten the recovery process.

## CHAPTER III

### WATER QUALITY TARGETS

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Numeric targets interpret narrative water quality standards, provide indicators of watershed health, and represent habitat conditions adequate for the success of salmonids. The water quality standards of concern are narrative standards for suspended material, settleable material, sediment, and turbidity. In addition, two prohibitions on sediment discharge from logging, construction and related activities further define water quality-related requirements. These targets allow resource managers and others to assess the degree to which positive changes are occurring in the watershed that, over time, will result in a greater abundance and quality of habitat necessary to support the cold water fishery.

A TMDL is intended to result in attainment of water quality suitable to support beneficial uses. To this end, it is important to monitor in-stream parameters to determine if water quality is in fact improving over time. EPA anticipates that the Regional Water Board will coordinate with landowners in the basin to conduct monitoring in conjunction with its implementation of this TMDL.

Many in-stream parameters, identified in the scientific literature as critical to coho success, vary as a result of both natural and anthropogenic changes. Furthermore, instream targets alone would not be adequate to ensure achievement of adequate water quality, as sediment-producing changes in hillslopes and watershed conditions could take years to decades to be reflected in stream conditions, when it might be too late to correct the problem. Thus, using in-stream parameters as a means of quantifying the benefits to water quality that are derived from changes in hillslope management practices is not adequate. Hillslope targets define watershed conditions associated with well-functioning watersheds, and are needed to protect water quality and assist in assessment of sediment control. Thus, both in-stream and hillslope targets are identified for the Ten Mile River watershed.

Although the Ten Mile River was included on the 303(d) list for sediment and its threat to water quality and the salmonid fishery, many factors indirectly affected by sediment also affect salmonid populations. Regional Water Board staff evaluated existing sediment, habitat and temperature data to determine how and where sediment was limiting to the beneficial use, and how other factors might interact with sediment factors. To do this, staff compared data with coho population data and criteria cited in Flosi et al. (1998, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) and Mangelsdorf and Lundborg, 1998.

This site-specific data as well as literature sources were used to identify indicators and targets. Table 1 (p. 5) lists water quality targets, which are identified for:

- Substrate composition:  $\leq 14\%$  fines  $< 0.85$  mm (mean wet volume);
- $V^* \leq 0.21$ ,
- thalweg profile (increasing variation of elevation around the mean slope);

- habitat characteristics indicators (improving trends in distribution of scour pools and large woody debris-formed habitat);
- number of stream crossings with diversion potential (<1% during a 100-year storm);
- stream crossings with significant failure potential (<1% during a 100-year storm);
- hydrologic connectivity (decreasing length);
- disturbed areas (decrease);
- and activity in unstable areas (none).

The targets are described below.

## **INSTREAM TARGETS**

### **Sediment Substrate Composition**

The target selected for substrate composition is less than or equal to 14% fine sediment <0.85mm, in order to protect spawning, incubation and emergence (Mangelsdorf and Lundborg, 1998, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000). Excess fine sediment can prevent adequate water flow through salmon redds, or nests, which is critical for maintaining adequate oxygen levels and removing metabolic wastes. Deposits of these finer sediments can also prevent the hatching fry from emerging from the redds, resulting in smothering.

Since 1993, G-P has sampled substrate composition of streambed gravels at the pool/riffle juncture of locations throughout the Ten Mile River watershed, using a McNeil sampler and following the protocol recommended by Valentine (1995, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000). G-P established 23 instream substrate sampling stations (see Figure 2): 1 in the Lower Ten Mile Planning Watershed, 7 in the North Fork Planning Watershed, 6 in the Middle Fork Planning Watershed and 9 in the South Fork Planning Watershed. Sampling was conducted during low flow conditions of late summer or early fall.

None of the three main forks of the Ten Mile River watershed meets the target value on an average basis (see Table 2). Currently, all but three of the stations (Upper South Fork, South Fork at Churchman, and Bald Hill Creek) have 5-year averages exceeding the target value. At one-quarter of the sample locations (TEN1, NFT7, NFT9, NFT10, CFT5, and SFT2), the average percent fines (<0.85 mm) over a 5-year period is greater than 20% (representing values that are 50-70% higher than the target), which may significantly impair spawning success. They are located throughout the watershed, but are found predominantly in the North Fork Planning Watershed. The high concentrations of fines may be most problematic in locations where spawning activity is critical. For example, Bear Haven Creek, Campbell Creek, Smith Creek, South Fork Ten Mile, and Little Bear Haven Creek appear to be important spawning areas, but spawning has also been observed in Patsy Creek, and Middle Fork Ten Mile. Unfortunately, spawning observation sites and sediment sample locations are not necessarily correlated.

G-P (Hines, 2000, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) conducted a trend analysis and found trends at 10 of the 23 sampling locations (NFT2, NFT5, NFT6, NFT9, NFT10, CFT4, CFT6, SFT1, SFT2, and SFT13 in Table 2). All of these locations are stable or decreasing in percent fines

(<0.85 mm), except SFT1, which is increasing. The increase at this site may reflect the recent intensive harvest activity. Three sampling locations in the Middle Fork Planning Watershed and one in the South Fork Planning Watershed (CFT1, CFT3, CFT5, and SFT6) appear to have increasing trends, though the data are not statistically conclusive.

**Table 2: Substrate Composition**

Location			Percent fines less than 0.85 mm					
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	5-year mean
<b>LOWER TEN MILE PW</b>								
TEN1	Mill Creek		22.6	23.7	17.4	19.1	20.7	20.7
<b>NORTH FORK PW</b>	19.8	20.5	22.3	18.4	18.3	18.7	15.3	19.4
Average:								
NFT1	NFT at Patsy Creek		20.7	18.4	14.7	23.3	14.4	18.3
NFT2	Bald Hill Creek		16.2	13.7	14.2	12.6	10.7	13.5
NFT5	NFT at Camp 5		20.8	15.5	16.5	16.3	16.6	17.1
NFT6	Lower Little North Fork		18.9	17.3	17.1	17.6	11.2	16.4
NFT7	Buckhorn Creek		23.7	16.2	20.8	22.5	19.9	20.6
NFT9	NFT at Gulch 9		26.5	20.7	23.9	19.1	19.2	21.9
NFT10	Patsy Creek		28.8	27.1	21.7	19.3	21.8	23.7
<b>MIDDLE FORK PW</b>	16.7	18.3	19.1	17.4	17.6	16.8	18.5	17.8
Average:								
CFT1	CFT at Reynold's Gulch		17.0	15.1	20.0	19.8	21.1	18.6
CFT2	CFT at Little Bear Haven Creek		16.5	19.7	14.2	8.8	14.4	14.7
CFT3	Lower Bear Haven Creek		18.6	12.9	11.4	23.2	18.1	16.8
CFT4	Lower CFT		20.9	16.9	17.2	15.6	18.5	17.8
CFT5	Booth Gulch		22.2	22.5	26.7	20.6	22.9	23.0
CFT6	Little Bear Haven Creek		19.6	17.4	16.2	12.5	16.1	16.4
<b>SOUTH FORK PW</b>	17.0	16.5	17.0	17.3	16.5	17.6	15.4	16.6
Average:								
SFT1	Smith Creek		14.7	17.2	16.6	21.1	19.1	17.7
SFT2	Campbell Creek		23.1	22.8	22.0	18.7	22.5	21.8
SFT3	SFT at Brower's Gulch		16.5	21.8	18.4	16.1	13.5	17.3
SFT4	Churchman Creek		15.8	19.2	12.4	13.6	16.4	15.5
SFT5	SFT at Buck Mathew's Gulch		16.6	16.9	12.9	28.2	16.1	18.1
SFT6	SFT at Camp 28		18.4	16.2	15.4	20.3	16.9	17.4
SFT8	Upper Redwood Creek		19.5	16.0	22.7	17.1	15.2	18.1
SFT9	Upper SFT		14.0	13.2	13.6	12.0	9.9	12.5
SFT13	SFT at Churchman Creek		14.2	12.4	14.5	11.2	9.2	12.3

Note: 1993 and 1994 data were reported only as averages.

Source: Ambrose et al. (1996, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000), Ambrose and Hines (1997, 1998, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000)

Hines (2000, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) suggests, from his trend analysis, that fines concentration in the North Fork Planning Watershed are generally decreasing while those in the South Fork and Middle Fork Planning Watershed, while still elevated, appear relatively stable from 1993-1999. He hypothesizes that since old-growth trees were harvested more recently in the North Fork than elsewhere in the basin, the data may reflect ongoing, long-term recovery. Hines further suggests that sediment data in the other Planning Watersheds may have missed the downward trend and simply be measuring post-disturbance stabilization.

Current averages in the South Fork Planning Watershed are generally lower than the other Planning Watersheds. This Planning Watershed was also harvested more intensively than the other Planning Watershed over the past decade. It is possible that the “signal” from the current disturbance has not yet reached the stream, or it may also be that the broader valleys and generally greater distances between the roads and the streams could effectively buffer the impacts from the erosion, or it could be a combination of effects that result in these currently lower substrate averages. Given the intensive second growth harvesting in the south fork over the past decade, however, future increases in the delivery of sediment to important spawning and rearing reaches are of concern.

It is important to note that increased timber harvest is likely in the North Fork and Middle Fork Planning Watersheds, given the historical and recent trends in the South Fork, and given that the growth in the North and Middle Fork Planning Watersheds may now be at harvestable age. Thus, it is even more important to protect the already strained water quality and fishery from further degradation potential. Furthermore, several of the apparently most critical spawning reaches for coho are located in these Planning Watersheds, including: Little North Fork, and Bear Haven Creek. Fine sediment levels in these tributaries are already somewhat elevated, and further degradation could cause significant damage to the coho fishery.

The substrate composition target is probably the most useful target. The fact that most of the tributaries are very rich in fine sediment suggests one reason why the salmon population is depressed. EPA anticipates that the Regional Water Board will continue to coordinate with the landowner to continue data collection on a regular basis, and possibly to expand data collection to other areas where timber harvest may take place in the future or where potential for salmonid habitat exists.

#### **V\***

V\* is a measure of the fraction of a pool’s volume that is filled by fine sediment and represents the in-channel supply of mobile bedload sediment (Lisle and Hilton, 1992, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000). It also reflects the quality of pool habitat, since coho particularly prefer cool, deep pools, which offer protection from predators, a food source and resting location. A study conducted on over 60 streams representing different levels of disturbance in the North Coast found that a mean V\* value of 0.21 (21%) represented good stream conditions (Knopp, 1993, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000). Sample sites for this study were located in Franciscan geology. This target is included in this TMDL because it will facilitate further indication of beneficial use support: the data available in the Ten Mile River watershed indicate that pool depth and frequency are factors limiting success of salmonids throughout the basin. This is directly related

to sediment transport and deposition, and  $V^*$  is a relatively easy way to measure sediment in pools. Knopp (1993, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) collected  $V^*$  measurements from sites in both the South Fork Ten Mile River and Churchman Creek. Both sites were identified as representing highly disturbed watersheds. The  $V^*$  measurement was 0.27 in the South Fork, and 0.73 in Churchman Creek. While there were only two data points, they indicate that significant reductions in sediment loading may be required in individual subwatersheds within the Ten Mile River basin. EPA hopes that this indicator will be monitored regularly.

### **Thalweg Profile**

Fish need a variety of habitat types to be available in relatively close proximity. For example, eggs are laid at the downstream end of pools (the tail-out of the pool), the young fry that emerge from the gravels require slow-moving water (the pools themselves) with an abundant supply of food, and fish at various life stages and times of year may rest in pools, darting into riffle sections (faster moving water) to feed where insects are abundant. However, they may also need to make a quick escape from predators, which can be made in a deep pool, an overhanging bank, under a log, etc. In short, variety and complexity in habitat is more likely to serve the needs of the fish at different times in the year or in its life cycle.

Measuring the thalweg profile and the variation of the elevation around the mean slope is one indicator of that habitat complexity. The thalweg profile is a survey of elevations along the stream length, parallel to stream flow, of the deepest point in the stream (the thalweg). As a stream descends from its headwaters to its mouth, the thalweg profile slope also descends. When the elevations of the thalweg at locations along the descent are plotted against stream length, the profile would appear as a jagged but descending line. The line would be relatively flat at pool areas, and would descend sharply at cascades. An overall trend in the descending line could also be defined, as the mean of the profile slope. As the number of pieces and volume of large woody debris increases as well as the number and depth of pools, the thalweg profile develops more dramatic variation around the mean profile slope, which indicates better habitat conditions.

The inadequate availability (distribution and quantity) of large woody debris and deep pools appear to be two of the main factors limiting the success of salmonids in the Ten Mile River watershed (Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000). The techniques proposed by the Forest, Fish and Farm Committee at its 1999 Workshop ("Using Stream Geomorphic Characteristics as a Long-term Monitoring Tool to Assess Watershed Function, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) include the measurement of the channel thalweg to determine the variation around the mean thalweg profile slope. Not enough is yet known about channel structure to establish a specific number that reflects a satisfactory degree of variation. Therefore, the numeric target is simply an increasing trend in variation from the mean thalweg profile slope.

EPA anticipates that the Regional Water Board would coordinate with landowners to include this parameter in a monitoring plan. Selected "response" reaches (generally lower gradient stream reaches whose profiles tend to change in response to sediment movement through the system) could be monitored infrequently, e.g., every 5-10 years and/or in the summer season following large floods.

## HABITAT CHARACTERISTICS TARGETS

Considering that the maximum population estimate in the most recent decade has been 351 fish, it is reasonable to assume that the coho population in the basin are not thriving. Hines and Ambrose (1998, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) analyzed measurements of juvenile coho populations in individual tributaries and concluded that the data only reliably indicated the presence of coho, not the size or sustainability of the populations. Thus, targets based on a site-specific relationship between habitat quality and coho must necessarily be based on coho presence, not coho abundance or population health. This is different than targets derived from the literature, which can be selected to represent conditions supporting healthy, sustaining populations. Therefore, these targets are not based on an interpretation of state water quality standards.

Ambrose et al.(1996, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) reports the results of habitat inventories in 109 miles of stream in the basin. These inventories consisted of walking lengths of stream and identifying a set list of descriptive features for that reach. Mangelsdorf and Clyde (2000) identified four habitat indicators from this data set for which the mean measurement value correlated with the presence of coho salmon in at least 80% of the cases. These parameters are: % of the habitat inventory length and area in scour pools and % of the habitat inventory reach length and area in habitat formed by large woody debris (i.e., pieces of wood that are at least 10 cm in diameter and 3 m in length, and preferably larger). In addition, Mangelsdorf and Clyde (2000) concluded that monitoring locations where the Mean Weekly Average Temperature, or MWAT (essentially a 7-day running average) generally does not exceed 16.8C also correlated well with coho presence.

Regional Water Board developed target values for those indicators (Table 3) based on their findings. These indicators have both direct and indirect relationships to sediment. These indicators and target values are included because they were developed using site-specific data, and appear to provide important information on the multiple factors affecting water quality conditions that support coho salmon. EPA is seeking comment on their inclusion as targets for this TMDL.

It is important to note that while these indicators were developed using local, site-specific data, coho presence was all that was required to assign an indicator as “meeting targets,” and target values were developed somewhat qualitatively. However, this does not address the question of what would be suitable characteristics to identify a sustainable salmonid population. Due to this factor, as well as the primarily indirect nature of their relationship to sediment and the difficulty in repeating habitat inventories precisely, this group of indicators are intended primarily as qualitative descriptors, with monitoring repeated only every 5 to 10 years (hopefully incorporating at least one large storm), or new locations monitored more frequently. Furthermore, the targets are set as increasing trends. These indicators are intended to facilitate a broad-scale view of the basin and the influences on water quality conditions and salmonid populations. They should also be considered as a monitoring tool.

**Table 3: Habitat Characteristic Target Values**

<b>Habitat characteristics</b>	<b>Target Value for Coho Streams</b>
% of habitat inventory reach in scour pools (length)	increasing no. of locations \$17%
% of habitat inventory reach in scour pools (area)	increasing no. of locations \$23%
% of habitat inventory reach formed by large woody debris (length)	increasing no. of locations \$11%
% of habitat inventory reach formed by large woody debris (area)	increasing no. of locations \$16%
% of summer MWAT < 16.8C	increasing no. of locations

Table 4 lists the current values of the indicators for selected stream reaches. Shaded areas indicate targets that are being met and stream reaches where coho are generally present.

**Table 4: Current Values of Habitat Indicators**

<b>Stream</b>	<b>% Scour pools (length)</b>	<b>% Scour pools (area)</b>	<b>% LWD-formed habitat (length)</b>	<b>% LWD-formed habitat (area)</b>	<b>% of summer MWAT ≤ 16.8 EC</b>
Mill Creek	8	10	4	3	100
North Fork Ten Mile River	28	39	8	9	35
Little North Fork Ten Mile River	27	32	18	19	100
Blair Gulch	5	12	1	2	NS
Barlow Gulch	3	5	1	2	NS
Buckhorn Creek	3	6	0	0	100
McGuire Creek	6	19	2	3	NS
Cavanough Gulch	4	7	1	2	NS
O'Connor Gulch	8	7	0	0	NS
Bald Hill Creek	14	19	5	7	95
Gulch 8	5	1	1	1	NS
Gulch 11	6	7	0	0	NS
Gulch 19	9	15	0	0	NS
Patsy Creek	7	9	2	3	NS
Gulch 23	3	9	0	0	NS
Clark Fork Ten Mile River	26	26	7	9	65
Bear Haven Creek	21	32	12	19	100
Little Bear Haven Creek	14	12	2	2	100
Booth Gulch	5	10	0	0	100
Gulch 27	8	9	3	4	NS
South Fork Ten Mile River	22	23	9	10	65
Smith Creek	17	23	11	16	100
Campbell Creek	19	25	12	16	75
Churchman Creek	6	12	4	9	100
Redwood Creek	11	17	5	8	80

Note: represents the % of the inventoried reach length or area that contained the given habitat type (i.e., lateral scour pool or LWD-formed habitat. For temperature, it is the % of time below the target value.

The habitat indicators and their current values in the sampled stream segments are discussed below.

### **Lateral Scour Pools**

Flosi et al. (1998, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) describe lateral scour pools (pools formed near either bank, which tend to scour out a deeper pool area along the edge) are the most widely used habitat. In general, pools make up more than 40% of the habitat by length in only three surveyed reaches: mainstem North Fork, Little North Fork, and mainstem Middle Fork. Of the little pool habitat that does exist throughout the rest of the watershed, lateral scour pools are the predominant type in Mill Creek, mainstem North Fork, Little North Fork, Cavanaugh Gulch, Bald Hill Creek, Gulch 11, Gulch 19, mainstem Clark Fork, Bear haven Creek, Mainstem South Fork, Smith Creek, Campbell Creek, Churchman Creek and Redwood Creek. Of those, coho have been observed only in North Fork, little North Fork, Clark Fork, Bear haven Creek, South Fork, Smith and Campbell Creeks. These streams meet the target values for scour pool length and area.

### **Pools Formed by Large Woody Debris (LWD)**

California coastal streams are especially dependent on the presence of large woody debris to provide ecological functions, such as sediment metering, sediment grading, pool formation, and shelter. Large pieces of woody debris in streams influence the physical form of the channel, the movement of sediment, the retention of organic matter and the composition of the biological community (Bilby and Ward 1989, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000). Debris can be instrumental in forming and stabilizing gravel bars (Bilby and Ward 1989, Lisle 1986, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) or in accumulating fine sediment (Zimmerman et al. 1967, Megahan 1982, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000). Debris also can form pools by directing or concentrating flow in the stream in such a way that the bank or bed is scoured or by impounding water upstream from the obstruction (Lisle and Kelsey 1982, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000). Large woody debris plays a more significant role in routing sediment in small streams than in large ones (Bilby and Ward 1989, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000).

Ambrose et al. (1996, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) conclude that the South Fork Planning Watershed has the highest percentage of pools formed by large woody debris (42%), followed by the Middle Fork (19%) and North Fork (18%). A possible association was also found between coho sites and the occurrence of pools formed by LWD: coho were found only in creeks where there was a large percentage of LWD.. This suggests that a low percentage of LWD-formed pools could adversely affect juvenile coho populations. The four creeks where coho were found had over 30% of their pools formed by LWD.

### **Temperature conditions**

Stream temperatures are influenced by many factors, among them water depth, which can decrease with excess sediment. While the Ten Mile River is not listed by the NCRWQCB for temperature, Regional Water Board staff nonetheless analyzed the temperature data that G-P provided, and a summary of the analysis is included here because of the indirect relationship with sediment, and because it is one of the factors that clearly affects coho distribution.

Ambrose and Hines (1998, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) conclude that a maximum weekly average temperature (calculated as the mean of daily maximums) of 16.8°C predicts whether or not coho will be present in a stream. G-P collected temperature data from 36 pools and 9 riffles. 31% of the pools sampled in the North Fork Planning Watershed, 45% of the pools sampled in the Middle Fork Planning Watershed, and 27% of the pools sampled in the South Fork Planning Watershed exhibit weekly average summer temperatures regularly below a 16.8°C MWAT. On average, 36% of the pools sampled in the basin as a whole exhibit suitable weekly average summer temperatures.

## **HILLSLOPE TARGETS**

The hillslope targets are established (Table 1, p. 5) to define watershed conditions needed to protect water quality. Hillslope targets are developed for management-related parameters identified in Chapter II (Problem Statement) that are important to the delivery of sediment to a watercourse. The stream crossing targets are intended to focus on road-related sediment delivery, particularly sediment delivery that is highly controllable. The hydrologic connectivity target is intended to focus on the problem of an expanded channel network, particularly the accompanying issues of elevated sediment (as scour) and flow. The disturbed area target is intended to focus on the problem of increased erosion and flow potential accompanying unvegetated and/or compacted soil surfaces. The unstable area target is intended to focus on the problem of the increased risk of erosion and sediment delivery that is likely from unstable areas.

### **Stream Crossing with Diversion Potential and Stream Crossings with Significant Failure Potential**

Most truck roads, skid roads, and railroad roads cross ephemeral or perennial streams. Stream crossing structures are built to capture the stream flow and safely convey it through or around the roadbed. The Forest Practice Rules require that: (1) the number of watercourse crossings be minimized; (2) crossing structures allow for unrestricted passage of fish, where fish are present; (3) crossings be constructed or maintained to prevent the diversion of stream overflow down the road; (4) crossings be constructed to accommodate a 50-year flood flow; and (5) trash racks be installed to prevent debris from reducing the flow capacity of the crossing structure.

There is no existing data in the Ten Mile River watershed regarding the current rate of stream diversions or stream crossing failures or the contributions of sediment to the watercourse from these processes. In other North Coast basins (e.g., Rolling Brook, a tributary of the Garcia River, and Redwood Creek in Redwood National Park), sediment from stream diversions and other sources associated with haul road and skid trail crossings have been estimated to contribute from 25-38% of the overall sediment budget. Thus, this sediment process is likely to be a significant component of the Ten Mile River watershed sediment budget as well.

Diversion potential is the potential for a road to divert water from its intended drainage system across or through the road fill thereby delivering road-related sediment to a watercourse. As described in the South Fork Trinity River TMDL (EPA, 1998), the potential delivery of sediment to a watercourse can be eliminated from almost all potential road diversions by identifying and correcting sites with diversion potential. Correction measures include eliminating inboard

ditches, outslowing roads, and/or installing rolling dips at crossings. No more than 1% of potential road diversion sites are expected to be either physically impossible to correct or of such a nature that their correction would make the road unsafe for travel.

Stream crossing failures are generally related to undersized, poorly placed, plugged or partially plugged culverts. When a culvert fails, the sediment associated with the crossing is delivered directly into the watercourse. Indeed, in most crossing failures, the total sediment volume delivered is the volume of road fill associated with the crossing as well as sediment from collateral failures such as debris torrents that scour the channel and stream banks (EPA, 1998). The Forest Practices Act requires that road crossings be designed to pass a 50-year flood and be protected from damage by debris with trash racks. Given the large percentage of seasonal roads in the Ten Mile River watershed, however, maintenance of culverts and trash racks following storm events is likely to be irregular. The target, therefore, is being established based on the 100-year flood. No more than 1% of all culverts are expected to fail as a result of a 100-year flood or less, if all the culverts are properly sized, installed, and maintained. Only those crossings where modification would endanger travelers, or where there are other physical constraints, should fall within this 1%.

### **Hydrologic Connectivity**

Increased intensity, frequency and magnitude of flood flows are accompanied by increased suspended sediment discharge and can result in the destabilization of the stream channel. This can have a devastating effect on salmonid redds and growing embryos (Lisle, 1989, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000).

Hydrologic connectivity refers to the extent that the road drainage is connected to watercourses. The connectivity can be reduced by outslowing roads, creating road drainage that mimics natural drainage as much as possible, and other factors (M. Furniss, pers. comm. 1998, and Weaver and Hagans 1994, in EPA 2000).

The reduction of road densities and the reconstruction of roads to reduce the miles of inboard ditches, for example, can reduce the amount of water that is directly delivered to watercourses, including any associated sediment load. Current research appears insufficient to identify a specific number of miles of road or road with inboard ditch that would adequately prevent excessive stream flows and sediment discharge. Accordingly, the target calls for a reduction in the hydrologic connectivity of roads to watercourses.

### **Disturbed Area**

Studies in Caspar Creek (Lewis, 1998, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) indicate that there is a statistically significant relationship between the difference in the disturbed areas and the corresponding suspended sediment discharge rate (Lewis, 1998; J. Lewis pers. comm. w/ A. Mangelsdorf as reported in Regional Water Board, 1999, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000). In addition, studies in Caspar Creek indicate that clearcutting causes greater increases in peak flows (and by extension suspended sediment loads) than does selective harvest (Ziemer, 1998, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000). As with the “hydrologic connectivity” target above, increases in

peak flows, annual flows, and suspended sediment discharge rates negatively affect the potential survivability of ova in redds (Lisle, 1989, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000).

The available information is insufficient to identify a threshold below which effects (such as increases in peak flows, annual flows and suspended sediment discharge) on the Ten Mile River watershed would be insignificant. Accordingly, the target calls for a reduction in the amount of disturbed area. With respect to this target, “disturbed area” is defined as the area covered by management-related facilities of any sort, including: roads, landings, skid trails, firelines, harvest areas, animal holding pens, and agricultural fields (e.g., pastures, vineyards, orchards, row crops, etc). The definition of a facility is intentionally made broad to include managed agricultural areas, such as pastures and harvest areas, where the management activity (e.g., logging or grazing) results in substantially enough removal of vegetation to significantly reduce important rainfall interception and soil protection functions. Agricultural fields or harvest areas in which adequate vegetation is retained to perform these ecological functions can be excluded from consideration as “facilities.” Dramatic reductions in the amount of disturbed area, then, can be made by reducing road densities, skid trail densities, clearcut areas, and other management-induced bare areas.

### **Activity in Unstable Areas**

Unstable areas are those areas that have a high risk of landsliding and include: steep slopes, inner gorges, headwall swales, stream banks, existing landslides, and other locations identified in the field. Because of the high risk of landsliding inherent in these features, any activity that might trigger an erosional event should be kept to a minimum. Such activities include: road building, harvesting, yarding, terracing for vineyards, etc.

An analysis using a predictive model of chronic landsliding in the Noyo River basin, based on the ratio of effective precipitation to soil transmissivity ( $q/T$ ), indicates that landslides observed on aerial photographs largely coincide with predicted chronic risk areas. Chronic risk areas include steep slopes, inner gorges and headwall swales, as well as other locations (Dietrich et al. (1998, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000).

Weaver and Hagans (1994) suggest methods for eliminating or decreasing the potential for road-related sediment delivery. They recommend avoiding construction of roads in unstable areas unless construction involves professional geotechnical assistance. Studies in the lower Eel River basin suggest that landslides in recently harvested second growth areas underlain by Franciscan geology are larger and more common than those in areas of unharvested second growth (PWA, 1998, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000). In Redwood Creek basin, Pitlick (1982, in Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) found that slides in harvested inner gorge areas were no more common but were much larger than those in uncut inner gorge slopes. Thus, the target calls for avoidance of unstable areas, unless the activity involves professional geotechnical assistance.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **SOURCE ANALYSIS**

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The purpose of this chapter is to analyze sediment production information for the Ten Mile River watershed, to determine the sources of sediment loading. The information for this analysis is abstracted from GMA (2000).

#### **ANALYSIS METHODS**

Existing data were compiled from a variety of sources, including the Georgia-Pacific Fort Bragg Timberlands Sustained Yield Plan (Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc. 1997, in GMA 2000), as well as TMDL and/or sediment source analyses for similar basins such as the Noyo (GMA 1999), Navarro (Entrix et al. 1997, in GMA 2000) and Garcia Rivers (PWA, 1997, in GMA 2000). GMA analyzed a series of historic aerial photographs and made field visits to calibrate the air photo analysis and to collect field data, to the extent permitted by landowners.

The sediment source analysis involves three primary components: 1) evaluation of the dominant geomorphic processes that deliver sediment to the various stream channels in the Ten Mile River watershed through limited field reconnaissance, review of existing data, and consultation with those who are familiar with basin conditions; 2) measurement of various parameters, such as landslide size/type/associated land use, road length and harvest areas from sequential aerial photography and existing data bases; and 3) selection of factors to complement or modify the photo-based measurements where other data or information exist, and/or to estimate conditions where no data exist, thus allowing computation of results. The approach is primarily an indirect, office-based approach.

#### **Time Period of Analysis**

Historic aerial photographs were used to evaluate changes in sediment storage. Coverage was available for 1942 (partial coverage), 1952, 1965, 1978, 1988, and 1999. GMA assumed that features observed in the 1942 photographs covered approximately a 10-year period (i.e., no earlier than 1933), generally similar to the length of the subsequent study periods. Thus, the sediment budget covers a 67-year period, extending from 1933 to 1999. Sediment source data were developed for all six of these time intervals, capturing different periods of sediment-producing events, including both the largest storms this century (water years 1938, 1956, 1965, 1974, 1993) and changes in harvest practices and road building techniques.

#### **Hydrology and Geomorphology Methods**

Existing precipitation data were collected from the National Weather Service NCDC database on CD-ROM and from James Goodridge, former state climatologist and now consultant to the California Department of Water Resources. The limited streamflow and gaging station records available were obtained from USGS. The only stream gage in the basin operated on the Middle Fork from 1965-1973. A correlation process was used to extend the short record available on the

Middle Fork Ten Mile using the longer record from the Noyo River. Data were supplemented using additional data collected during WY 2000 for the nearby Big and Albion Rivers. Access was not provided for additional instream data collection in most parts of the Ten Mile River watershed. Using available data, synthetic streamflow records were developed for the North, Middle, and South Forks independently. These data were analyzed for magnitude, frequency, and duration. Bedload and suspended sediment load were also estimated over the time period.

Gaging station records were also used to evaluate changes in mean streambed elevation (MBE) at the gage. The cross section at the cableway of the former USGS gaging station was resurveyed to evaluate bed elevation changes since 1973. Historic records of timber harvest, railroad construction, and early photographs from a variety of sources were examined to provide a glimpse of conditions in the watershed from 1870-1940. Field reconnaissance visits to limited portions of the lower watershed were made to assess changes in channel-stored sediment and bank erosion at the USGS gage. However, similar conditions were also evaluated from field data for the Noyo, Big and Albion Rivers.

### **Mass Wasting Source Methods**

Analysis of landslides and debris slides was conducted for photo years 1942, 1952, 1965, 1978, 1988, and 1999. Each photo covered the period from the previous photo up through the photo date. A 10-year period was assumed for the 1942 photos. The total period is thus 67 years. 1942 coverage was incomplete, as previously noted, but probably still included most of the slides that would have been seen on the photos. Only landslides greater than about 75-100 feet in width or length were included, which included most of the failures. Landslides were classified as rotational/translational, earthflow, debris slide, or debris flow/torrent. Rotational/translational and earthflow slides are characterized as relatively deep-seated, slow-moving or static slides, and it is generally assumed that such failures contributed little sediment except that derived from sheetwash or gully processes. Debris slides, however, are short-term, active failures that contribute relatively modest to large volumes of sediment to the drainage. Over time they revegetate and eventually heal so that, in many cases, sediment input is reduced to similar levels as adjacent undisturbed areas. Debris flows/torrents are fast-moving and relatively shallow (in most, but not all) failures. For this study, cutslope and fillslope failures and rock avalanches are also included in this classification.

Certainty that the landslides observed were, in fact, landslide, were noted as “definite,” “probable,” or “questionable.” Those identified as “questionable” were eliminated from further analysis. Those that were not delivering sediment to a stream or watercourse were eliminated as well. The geologist then estimated the proportion of the landslide volume that was likely to be delivering to the stream, as either less than 33% delivering, 33-66%, or greater than 66%. The midpoint of each of these ranges (0.166, 0.50 and 0.833) were used for volume calculations. Delivery proportions were also adjusted for the type of slide: debris torrents were reduced by a factor of 0.5 because mapped portions of run-out areas probably were not delivering; earthflows were adjusted by 0.02 to account for slow movement and a relatively small delivery rate; and deep-seated rotation/translational slides were adjusted by 0.005 to account for even slower

movement and delivery. Slides that were labeled as relic or dormant were assumed to be no longer delivering sediment.

Surface area of each feature was derived from Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of the slide feature. Depth estimates were based in part on Mendocino Redwood Company's (MRC's) watershed investigations for the Noyo River watershed, which suggested that forest or harvest non road-related slides had a mean thickness of 3.0 ft. GMA' field investigations in the Ten Mile River basin suggested that this thickness was also appropriate to be assigned road-related slides as well. Earthflows were assigned a thickness of 10 ft, and rotational/translational slides were assigned a thickness of 25 ft. A few larger slides were assigned thicknesses greater than 3 ft, but only when large scarps were clearly visible.

If a slide could be seen on a later photo, it was determined whether the slide had healed, was continuing to deliver sediment, or had re-initiated. If it was either continuing to deliver or re-initiated, the volume of sediment was estimated for that period as well.

Land uses associated with landslides were assigned based on what was visible in the air photo: road cut or fill, skid trail, railroad cut or fill, timber harvest (clear cut, partial cut, recent selective cut or selective cut greater than 20 years old) and forest, which represented apparently undisturbed conditions (i.e., no apparent disturbance within the previous 40 or so years). This was estimated visually.

Each landslide was thus identified in a data base, with associated information, including: GIS location, photo date, type, associated land use, area, volume, position (e.g., inner gorge v. hilltop), and certainty. Volumes were converted to tons using 1.48 T/yd<sup>3</sup>.

Limited field reconnaissance in June of 2000 was focused mainly on slides located along main roads, parallel to tributaries, and the subdued topography in the headwaters of the North Fork. As expected, sediment delivery neared 100% parallel to watercourses for fill failures. A conversation with a long time employee of the major landowner confirmed that prior to institution of the FPRs, slide debris on roads was pushed into streams. Since 1973, debris is either spread out along the roadway or endhailed to an appropriate location.

### **Surface Erosion Source Methods**

Surface erosion was estimated for background rates, timber harvest, skid trails, roads, and railroads for the various period. Surface erosion from roads and skid roads was estimated by developing a road construction history and a harvest history. Prior to 1988, the history was developed primarily from interpretation of aerial photography. From 1988 to present, road and harvest history was obtained from (California Department of Forestry (CDF) GIS coverages which had been developed by directly inputting information provided as part of submitted Timber Harvest Plans (THPs). Data from the pre-1988 mapping efforts were shown on overlays and simply record road or harvest activity during the period between years of photographs reviewed.

For roads, only main roads or haul roads were mapped. Adjustments were made to the GIS to match the CDF GIS coverages with air-photo mapping. The various CDF GIS classes were combined into 4 categories for simplicity: highway (paved), permanent (rocked but not paved), seasonal (native surface), and temporary. Because of revegetation over time, probably not all haul roads were mapped. Furthermore, their importance could be misinterpreted because of lack of use, being overgrown, or being incorporated into harvest units and lost in a maze of skid trails. Because the 1942 photos did not cover the eastern portions of the North Fork and a small portion of the Middle Fork, roads for that period may have been slightly underestimated, but it is unlikely that it is a large effect since little timber harvest took place in that part of the watershed prior to 1942.

Surface erosion from skid trails and harvest was estimated by estimating the aerial extent and type of harvest. In tractor-logged harvest units, road and skid trail density was characterized as low, moderate, or high, and erosion factors were applied to estimate the amount of erosion from each type over time.

Data from the overlays was digitized into the GIS database for subsequent mapping and analysis.

#### Road Erosion

The method used to estimate sediment production from roads is based on a procedure developed by Reid (1981, in GMA 2000) for industrial timber roads and associated use and sediment production in the Clearwater (Washington) basin. This procedure was also recently undertaken on the Navarro River and Noyo River watersheds. Although its use has limitations in that the similarity between the Mendocino watersheds and the Clearwater basin is unknown, it provides the best practical method for this TMDL, because any other method would require detailed information on road characteristics and use that can only be developed through a detailed road inventory. .

The first step involves converting the observed road mileage by year into cumulative road miles by period to allow for road surface erosion calculations. The total road mileage in a given sub-watershed is then stratified into use categories by application of a “use function” which proportions the road miles into four use categories (high, moderate, low, none) based on fixed percentages (high use - 5%, moderate use - 5%, low use - 40%, and no use - 50%). These percentages are based on the patterns of log-truck usage observed by Reid (1981, in GMA 2000), with the percentages rounded to the nearest 20% to simplify the computation (high from 6% to 5%, low from 39% to 40%).

The next step involves application of the sediment production rates for each use class. Reid (1981, in GMA 2000) found that sediment production rates for each use class in the Clearwater basin declined by approximately an order of magnitude (i.e. 800, tons/mi for high, 80 tons/mi for moderate, 8 tons/mi for low, and 0.8 tons/mi for no use). The product of each use class by the applicable sediment rate gives annual sediment yield by class. The yields in the various classes are then summed to obtain sub-watershed production from roads. This procedure was followed for all years with road mileage data. There was one significant modification to this computation process: to account for improved road practices in recent years, overall factors of 0.8 and 0.6

were applied to the total computed sediment yield by sub-watershed for the 1979-1988 and 1989-1999 periods, respectively.

### **Hillslope Harvest/Skid Trail Surface Erosion Methods**

There is considerable variation in estimates from the literature in the role of skid roads in sediment production and delivery to stream channels. Since skid roads are generally not linked as directly to stream channels as roads typically are, drainage practices (proper installation of water bars, etc.) are of primary importance in determining whether significant sediment production and delivery will occur. As a result of these site specific characteristics that control sediment generation, extensive direct field observations would be the only way to obtain comprehensive information on the role of skid roads.

GMA (2000) evaluated sediment production and delivery from skid trails using indirect methods. Harvest areas were identified on the historic aerial photographs and assigned a high, medium, or low rating regarding the density of skid roads. The area of the different types was computed by GIS methods for each sub-watershed. For the 1999 budget period, harvest areas were not mapped, but rather computed from the GIS database based on annual THP's submitted to CDF.

All harvest areas in the 1942 photos were considered to have a high density of skid roads. In 1952 and 1965 the majority of harvesting still used a high density of skid trails. Harvest rates were very low in 1978 and 1988, and by 1988 there were not any harvest areas mapped as high density, reflecting changes in the Forest Practice Rules. In 1999, areas that were mapped were all assigned low skid road density, along with a number of new categories from the CDF database, including clear cuts, narrow clear cuts, and cable cuts. Typically, few if any skid roads were seen on these areas, as much effort was apparently spent to obliterate the skid trails developed during harvest operations.

To compute surface erosion rates from the harvest acreage data requires selection of a yield function for each class and selection of a time function to characterize the change in sediment yield over time, as revegetation occurs and the site stabilizes. GMA used yield and time functions developed by Mendocino Redwoods Company (MRC 1999, in GMA 2000) for their holdings in the Noyo River watershed. Based on a review of the literature, MRC selected 50 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr as a current mean rate for skid road sediment production for current management methods. They applied these rates over a 12 year period for each harvest area, with 2 years at the initial high rate, and 10 years thereafter at a reduced, or base rate (C. Surfleet, pers. comm. 1999, in GMA 2000). To extrapolate their method to the various density classes that GMA mapped, GMA used 600 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for high densities, 450 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for medium densities, and 300 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for low densities. These higher values were estimated to reflect earlier, pre-Forest Practice Rules operations. GMA used a 10 year period to simplify the calculations, since a 12-year period would have overlapped many of the period lengths, necessitating more complex calculations. The first two years were at the rates listed above, and then reduced to 25% of that rate for the remaining 8 years. For periods 1979-1988 and 1989-1999, the rate was adjusted downward to an average of 100 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr to reflect the combination of improved management practices post-1974 FPR, and the advent of cable skyline yarding and greatly improved buffering

practices. Unfortunately, GMA had no site-specific information on vegetation cover establishment in the Ten Mile watershed with which to adjust our calculations, and therefore no adjustments were made.

### **Fluvial Erosion Methods**

Numerous studies have indicated that fluvial erosion, whether from road diversions and washouts, road drainage-induced gullies, natural gullies, bank erosion or small streamside landslides can be a major component of the watershed sediment sources. Unfortunately, estimating these components accurately for an entire watershed is difficult, and is usually done as part of the comprehensive road inventory process.

GMA used fluvial erosion rates developed for the Noyo River, which had been extrapolated from preliminary data from Mendocino Redwoods Company (C. Surfleet, pers. comm. 1999, in GMA 2000) to arrive at a value of 200 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr. These values were then multiplied by the drainage area and the period length in years to obtain a first-cut estimate of the period fluvial erosion total.

To cross check these estimates, GMA also evaluated descriptions (which included rough dimensions of length and height) from the 1994 habitat surveys made by Georgia-Pacific West, Inc. as reported in their 1995 instream monitoring report.

### **Change in Channel Storage Methods**

GMA examined historical aerial photographs to determine visible changes in channel width, considered channel cross section configuration from gaging station records, and the hydrologic and management histories. GMA inferred that due to management practices and high flow years between 1938 and 1974, a substantial amount of alluvial storage was lost as the channel widened. GMA approximate this change by estimating that the channel widened by an average 40 feet over a 10.5 mile reach including 4.5 miles of the Mainstem Ten Mile above the estuary, the lower 3 miles of the Middle Fork, and the lower 3 miles of the North Fork. GMA furthermore assume that the average height of floodplain lost was 5 feet. From this GMA estimated likely changes in channel storage.

## **RESULTS**

### **Hydrology and Geomorphology Results**

Average annual precipitation in the basin ranges from about 40-45" per year in the western portion of the basin, to 75-85" in the eastern portion. Most of the precipitation occurs as rainfall from October through April, with the largest storms frequently occurring in mid-winter. The largest floods resulting from these storms occurred in Water Years 1938, 1956, 1965, 1974, and 1993. The 1942, 1965, 1978 and 1999 air photos would all record the most visible effects of those storms. The 1952 and 1988 air photos reflect periods of relative quiescence related to low water years and, in the case of the 1988 photos, an extended period of drought. The photo years prior to 1978 reflect intensive timber harvest with no regulation, while 1988 and 1999 reflect

timber harvest under the California Forest Practices Act, which was passed by the state Legislature in 1973. The effects of the heavy precipitation and flood flows were more pronounced in the earlier years, prior to establishment of the Forest Practice Rules (FPRs). Considerable lengths of roads and skid trails had been built, and the railroad had been constructed and was operational. The storms apparently had a significant effect on the watershed. Effects were less pronounced in the 1999 air photos, probably reflecting both the effects of the FPRs and the fact that many of the landslide areas had already been triggered in earlier years.

The data developed for the Ten Mile River watershed indicates an average annual sediment discharge of 1,135 T/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for the period 1952-1997 (GMA 2000 p 18). Of the 6.24 million tons transported during that period, 12% was estimated to have been transported in 1974 alone, while the top 10 flow years accounted for 58% of the total load. This occurred in WY 1974, 1965, 1956, 1993, 1995, 1983, 1952, 1986, 1953, and 1958 (GMA 2000).

## **Mass Wasting Results**

### Landslide Frequency

A total of 2,008 total slides were mapped as delivering within the 1933-1999 budget period. Of those features, 1,649 were unique, and the rest were continuing previously-mapped features that continued to deliver or re-initiated in a later period. This averages out to 13.8 unique slides per mi<sup>2</sup> for the 67-year period, or 16.8 features/mi<sup>2</sup> including those that also delivered in later periods. Of the 1,649 unique slides, 1,527 or 92.6% were debris slides, 110 or 6.7% were debris flows/torrents, 5 or 0.3% were earthflows, 4 or 0.2 % were gullies, and 3 or 0.2% were Rotational/Translational slides.

Highest slide frequencies occurred in the 1965 photo period, undoubtedly triggered by the intensive timber harvest and the heavy rainfall and flood flows. The periods through 1965 account for 73% of all the delivering landslides, whereas the most recent period accounts for only 6%. It is not surprising that the earlier periods account for the largest proportion of the landslides, since these periods include some of the largest storm events, in December 1965, December 1955 and December 1937. However, the incidence of landslides in the 1943-1952 period seem anomalously high, given the absence of large floods in the 1942-1952 period, and it must be attributed to the high level of disturbance. Likewise, the most recent period seems low, and may be attributed both to improved management practices as well as the fact that earlier periods probably triggered most of the likely failures already.

### Landslide Frequency Differences by Subwatershed

Smith Creek subwatershed, in the South Fork Planning Watershed, had the greatest number of slides for two consecutive periods, with 166 occurring in the 1933-1952 periods, out of a total 198 slides for the 67-year period. Only 9 slides occurred in that watershed in the 1953-65 period, possibly because such a large number of failures had already been triggered in the previous two periods. Overall frequency of slides in this subwatershed (averaging 36.1/mi<sup>2</sup> for the total period) was higher than for any other subwatershed. Other subwatersheds in the South Fork

Planning Watershed also had relatively higher numbers of slides: Churchman, Middle Fork South Fork and Campbell Creek all averaged 22-25/mi<sup>2</sup>.

In the lower Ten Mile Planning Watershed, a large number of slides in a smaller area also resulted in higher frequencies, particularly in Mill Creek (33.6/mi<sup>2</sup>). By contrast, the lowest number of slides for any subwatershed during the entire period (25) occurred in the Ten Mile River Estuary subwatershed, probably reflecting the subdued topography and smaller aerial extent of timber harvest in the subwatershed..

The North Fork Planning Watershed generally had lower frequencies of landslides, with the lowest frequency rate in the Upper North Fork subwatershed (3.8/mi<sup>2</sup>). However, the Lower North Fork subwatershed totaled 170 landslides, corresponding to a frequency rate of 25.3/mi<sup>2</sup>. Of the total, 136 occurred in the first 3 photo periods. Bald Hill Creek subwatershed also had a high frequency rate (18.7/mi<sup>2</sup>).

In the Middle Fork Planning Watershed, high landslide frequencies occurred in the Lower Middle Fork subwatershed (170, or 30.4/mi<sup>2</sup> for the period), but these were distributed fairly evenly throughout all periods. The Middle Middle Fork subwatershed also had relatively high landslide frequency (18.6/mi<sup>2</sup>).

#### Landslide Frequency Relationship to Timber Harvest

Generally speaking, landslide frequency is correlated with the aerial extent of timber harvest (see Figure 5, at the end of the document). Most noteworthy is that the landslides in the 1953-1965 period are well above the expected frequency, while the 1989-1999 period is well below. In 1965, this is probably due to the intensive timber harvesting and effects of the December 1964 flood. The low frequency in the most recent period probably reflects changes in FPRs as well as previous triggering of landslides.

#### Landslide Frequency Legacy Effects

Landslides initiated in earlier periods continue to have an effect today, despite the lower overall rates of landsliding. Approximately 1/5 of all landslides are re-initiated or continued to deliver in future periods. This has had a relatively larger effect in recent periods (Table 5). Up through 1978, 77-95% of all landslides observed were unique features, initiated in that period. In the most recent 20 years, that has dropped to 52-60%. In other words, 40-48% of slides that are observed today were initiated in the previous period, and are continuing to deliver sediment to watercourses.

#### Inner Gorge Landslide Frequencies

In many forested watersheds of the northern California coast, inner gorge topography (i.e., very steep slopes immediately adjacent to the watercourse) is the greatest source of sediment delivery to streams. This is usually important because of the high delivery rate. This type of landslide does account for nearly half of the slides in the lower North Fork and Middle Fork mainstem areas, and also dominates the lower South Fork mainstem. However, for the basin as a whole, this process accounts for only a quarter of all landslides, primarily because the slopes exceed 40% in only a relatively small portion of the basin (less than 2%).

Table 5: Delivering Landslides Initiated by Period													
Total Slides	1933-1942		1943-1952		1953-1965		1966-1978		1979-1988		1989-1999		Notes
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
2,008	449	100%	451		575		230		181		122		All Delivering Slides
1,649	449	100%	349	77%	456	79%	219	95%	108	60%	64	53%	Proportion Initiated in that Period
		0%		23%		21%		5%		40%		47%	Proportion Initiated in Earlier Period

### Landslide Frequency/ Land Use Associations

The greatest associations with landslides are timber harvest, particularly legacy effects, and skid trails. Only 2% of slides and debris torrents were associated with landslides in forested areas (i.e., no visible harvest), and are classified as “background” rates. This figure is underestimated as “background” or non-management landsliding, since portions of the unharvested areas in the 1942 air photo coverage was unavailable (underestimating the 1933-1942 period slightly), and since some landslides identified as “harvest > 20 yrs” are probably not management-related.

This is supported by looking at the data. A true “background” rate should be somewhat constant over time, but the landslide in the forest category actually decreased following 1965, with the three most recent periods having none or very few landslides. It seems more likely that the first two periods are more representative of non-management landsliding (averaging 36 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr). EPA believes this is a better estimate of the non-management landsliding rate. Thus, about 95% of landslides over the entire 67-year study period would be management related, and 70% of landslides in the current period. Current management-related inputs would comprise about 49% of the total.

It is possible that more landslides in the “harvest > 20 yrs” category are non-management related, but the degree of underestimate of the non-management landsliding is not known. If all of the landslides in that category were actually non-management related (which is also unlikely), then 1,987,000 tons or 248 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr would be non-management related landslides. Total non-management inputs would average 311 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr over the 67-year period, or 28% of the total.

In reality, it is not possible to state precisely how much of the landsliding in the harvest > 20 years category may be attributable to background rates. It is clear, however, that harvest activities do show an association with landslides; in Figure 5, (at end of document) a clear correlation can be seen between the number of acres harvested and the number of landslides by period. Two periods are exceptions: the 1953-1965 period shows a higher-than-expected number of landslides, and the 1989-1999 period shows fewer. This may be the result of improved forest practices in the recent period.

There is also some non-management related sediment input that is probably actually caused by management. Of the 200 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr attributed to fluvial erosion, some portion is probably caused by management activities. This is even more difficult to quantify.

Overall, two-thirds of the failures are harvest-related (primarily related to older harvest), while 29% are road- and railroad-related, (primarily related to road fills). Less than 2% are associated with grazing or other undetermined sources. While most harvest-related slides are associated with older harvest units, the number of slides associated with roads has increased in recent periods, and the number of slides associated with skid trails has also increased, accounting for less than 4% up through 1965, and 25% in 1966-99. The association peaked in the 1966-78 period (82 of 227), declining to 13 (of 115) in the 1989-99 period.

#### Land Use Frequency Associations by Subwatershed

As shown in Table 6 (at end of document), harvest-related landslides are dominant in the South Fork Planning Watershed (92% of all slides, whereas 8% are related to roads, railroads and skid trails). Subwatersheds with large harvest associations include the Upper South Fork, Middle South Fork, Campbell and Smith Creeks. A notable exception to the pattern is the Lower South Fork subwatershed. In the other Planning Watersheds, harvest-related landsliding comprises 50-61% of the total volume, and 65% overall. In those Planning Watersheds, road-related landslides are 36-46% of the total volume. Non-management related landslides are responsible for only 2% of total landslides.

Because associations are assigned visually based on aerial photo analysis, it is likely that some degree of error exists, particularly in the assignment of non-management (i.e. forest) landslides versus those related to harvest >20 yrs old. It is likely that some of those areas represent forest regrowth, and some of the landslides in that category probably are not caused by management activities.

In the North Fork and Middle Fork Planning Watersheds, road-related landslides are dominant. This is probably partly related to the topography, as the canyons tend to be narrower and steeper, and roads were initially constructed immediately adjacent to the water courses, and are more subject to failure. In the North Fork Planning Watershed, the Middle North Fork, Bald Hill Creek and Lower North Fork subwatersheds have the largest number of road-related slides. In the Middle Fork, the Upper Middle Fork, Middle Middle Fork and Lower Middle Fork subwatersheds have the most road-related slides. The South Fork Planning Watershed generally tends to have broader valleys, so that early road construction was not generally immediately adjacent to the stream course.

In the Lower Ten Mile Planning Watershed, the Mill Creek subwatershed also has a high number of road-related and harvest-related slides, relative to the size of the watershed.

#### Landslide Volume and Unit Area Volume

In the 1933-1942 period, 832,000 tons, or 61% of the total for the period, was delivered to watercourses in the South Fork Planning Watershed, with 20% of the total each coming from Campbell Creek and Smith Creek subwatersheds. The Middle South Fork and Redwood Creek

subwatersheds together contributed 16% of the total. This period accounted for over half of the sediment production for the 67-year period, for the South Fork Planning Watershed. This probably reflects the intensive harvest practices for that Planning Watershed in the period. On the whole, delivery from landslides in the South Fork Planning Watershed averaged 2,167 T/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr (again, assuming 1933 as the beginning of the period). Delivery in the Campbell Creek and Smith Creek subwatersheds averaged 6,300 and 4,905 T/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr, respectively (Table 7, at end of document).

Other areas also experienced high landslide volumes during this period. The Lower Ten Mile Planning Watershed delivered 35% of its load for the 67-year period during 1933-1942. For the same period, the Middle South Fork, Lower Middle Fork, Lower North Fork and Mainstem Ten Mile subwatersheds all averaged between about 2,100-2,900 T/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr, which were about twice the basin average for the period. Over one-quarter of the total volume of sediment delivered to the basin was delivered during that period.

Sediment production decreased only slightly in the 1943-1952 period, despite the absence of large storms. 16% of the total delivery for the basin occurred in that period, although it was somewhat more evenly distributed amongst all the Planning Watersheds. Subwatersheds with the highest unit area volumes (1,000-1,800 T/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr) included Bald Hill Creek, Lower North Fork, Lower Middle Fork, Middle South fork, Campbell Creek and Smith Creek.

The 1953-1965 period saw a combination of some of the largest storms and the greatest harvest intensities, resulting in well over a third of the total sediment delivery during that period. This effect was even more pronounced in the North Fork and Middle Fork Planning Watersheds, where nearly half of all the sediment production for those Planning Watersheds occurred in that period. The unit area production volume averaged 1,211 T/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for that period, and the volumes were unevenly distributed, skewed in part by both a high number of slides and one particularly large slide in the Middle North Fork subwatershed, where the resulting unit area volume averaged 5,536 T/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for the 1953-1965 period. In the Middle Middle Fork subwatershed, the unit area volume averaged 2,209 T/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for the period.

Several other subwatersheds that produced over 1,000 T/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr in the 1953-1965 period included the Lower North Fork, Upper Middle Fork and Lower Middle Fork (1,149-2209 T/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr). Volumes in the South Fork were relatively lower overall, although the Upper South Fork and Middle South Fork subwatersheds still averaged 1,009 and 1,104 T/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr, respectively.

From 1978-1999, the volume of landslides decreased noticeably, with the basinwide average of 492 T/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr in 1978-88 and 113 in 1989-99. Only Mill Creek subwatershed continued to produce over 1,200 T/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr during the 1966-1989 periods, and the Middle North Fork subwatershed averaging 4,129 T/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr during 1979-1988, largely because a single large slide was reactivated.

For the entire 1933-1999 period, sediment production from landsliding averaged 653 T/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr.

## Surface Erosion Results

### Roads

According to the GIS road coverage developed in this study, there are currently 940 miles of roads in the Ten Mile Watershed, which translates to a basinwide road density of 7.86 mi/mi<sup>2</sup> (including includes the former railroads, which were converted to roads). Table 8 (at end of document) shows the existing road network distributed by Planning Watershed and sub-watershed. The highest road density in the basin is in the Little North Fork subwatershed, with a density of 11.61 mi/mi<sup>2</sup>, followed closely by Lower North Fork (10.98 mi/mi<sup>2</sup>), Bear Haven Creek (10.99 mi/mi<sup>2</sup>, in the Middle Fork Planning Watershed), and Middle South Fork (10.23 mi/mi<sup>2</sup>). The other subwatersheds in the North Fork and Middle Fork Planning Watersheds are all under the watershed average. Lower Ten Mile and South Fork Planning Watersheds had the highest Planning Watershed densities at 8.29 and 8.46 mi/mi<sup>2</sup>, respectively.

Not surprisingly, seasonal roads (native surface) were 87.7% of the total, followed by permanent roads (rocked) at 8.5%, temporary (native surface 4WD) at 3.6%, and highway (paved) at 0.1%. Only a very small portion of Highway 1 is contained in the watershed. The Lower Ten Mile Planning Watershed has the highest road density (8.46 mi/mi<sup>2</sup>) of the 4 planning watersheds. The South Fork Planning Watershed has the largest amount of road miles at 318, followed by the North Fork Planning Watershed at 291 miles. There is a higher percentage of permanent roads in the Lower Ten Mile Planning Watershed (16.2%) and South Fork (13%) than in the North Fork (5.9%) or Middle Fork (3.7%) Planning Watershed. The Middle Fork Planning Watershed contains the largest proportion of seasonal and temporary roads (96%).

### Railroads

Railroads played an important role in the transportation of harvested timber between about 1910 and 1950. Main tracks extended far up the South Fork, with spur lines up Smith Creek, Campbell Creek and Redwood Creek (also in the South Fork Planning Watershed). Tracks were extended a much shorter distance up the Middle and North Forks. Table 9 illustrates that the South Fork Planning Watershed contained most of the railroad network in 1942. Beginning in the 1940s, railroads were replaced by trucks and the railroad grades were converted to road beds. This conversion appears to have been complete by the early 1950s. Railroad trestles are still visible at a number of sites throughout the watershed, particularly at abandoned river crossings.

TABLE 9	
LEN TH F R LR	S N THE TEN M LE W TERSHE 1942
PLANNING WATERSHED	Length (miles)
North Fork Ten Mile River	5.96
Middle Fork Ten Mile River	2.60
South Fork Ten Mile River	25.84
Lower Mainstem Ten Mile River	5.93

### Road History

The miles of roads constructed by period for each Planning Watershed and subwatershed is shown in Table 10 (at end of document). Of the current total of 940 miles of roads, 10% were existing in 1942, 21.5% were added in the 1943-1952 period, 13.1% were constructed in the 1953-1965 period, another 11.6% were built in the 1966-1978 period, only 5.4% were added in the 1979-1988 period, while 37.9% were created in the most recent 1989-1999 period. The latter period probably includes some roads that were actually constructed earlier, mainly in 1979-1988, but it is still evident that nearly half of the roads were constructed in the last 20 years.

The road construction and railroad history largely mirrors the history of timber harvest through the watershed, with most concentrated in the Lower Ten Mile and South Fork Planning Watersheds in the 1930s and 1940s, although the largest mileage during the 1933-1940 period (30 miles) was constructed in the Little North Fork subwatershed. It seems likely that the South Fork Planning Watershed would have had even more road construction during the 1940s and 1950s if the railroad network had been less extensive in that Planning Watershed.

Major road construction in the 1943-1952 period occurred in Bear Haven Creek (20.7 miles) and Upper Middle Fork (34.6 miles) subwatersheds in the Middle Fork Planning Watershed and in many of the subwatersheds in the North Fork Planning Watershed.. In the 1953-1965 period, most road construction occurred in the North Fork Planning Watershed with 65 miles of roads built, primarily in the Upper, Middle and Little North Fork subwatersheds. In the 1966-1978 period, road construction was concentrated primarily in one subwatershed in each of the Planning Watersheds: Campbell Creek in the South Fork Planning Watershed, Mill Creek in the Lower Ten Mile Planning Watershed, Bear Haven Creek in the Middle Fork Planning Watershed, and the Lower and Upper North Fork subwatersheds, with only small amounts in the remaining areas. Relatively little construction occurred in the 1966-1978 and 1979-1988 periods. During the 1979-1988 period, almost all of the road building was in Smith Creek, Redwood Creek and Middle South Fork subwatersheds in the South Fork Planning Watershed and the Upper Middle Fork and Upper North Fork subwatersheds.

Widespread construction occurred in the 1989-1999 period, as harvest rates rose considerably. The road construction rate in the South Fork Planning Watershed was double that of the other Planning Watersheds; over half the roads constructed in that Planning Watershed were built in the recent period. In the Middle and North Forks, 30-34% of the total roads in the Planning Watershed were constructed in the period (about 88 miles each).

Despite the significant increase in road density, the advantage of recently constructed roads is that construction standards have markedly improved in the past 25 years, thereby reducing the overall impact of these features compared to those built in earlier periods. In addition, many of these recent roads are ridgetop roads, which generally yield less sediment to watercourses than roads near stream courses or mid-slope roads. Unfortunately, the scope of this road investigation could not take the location of the road into account.

### Road Surface Erosion

The analysis indicates that surface erosion from roads has increased significantly over the study period, tracking cumulative road construction (Figure 3). However, the adjustment factors in recent years, predicated on substantially improved practices, result in a much lower rate of increase overall in recent years and in decreases for certain sub-watersheds. Providing the assumptions regarding improved road construction and maintenance practices are adequate, the rate of increase has slowed considerably, though the amount of road construction in the past 20 years has still led to increases in the overall load. Existing conditions are estimated to produce an overall average yield of 225 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr, which is estimated to be an almost 6-fold increase over 1942 rates, though with almost a 10-fold increase in the mileage of roads during the period.

Current road surface erosion rates are computed to vary between 117 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for the Middle North Fork to 331 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for the Little North Fork. The eastern (upper watershed) portions of the North Fork and Middle Fork Planning Watersheds typically had rates below the watershed average, while the lower portions of all three forks and all of the South Fork and Lower Mainstem had rates greater than the watershed average.

### **Skid Trail (Hillslope Harvest) Surface Erosion Results**

The largest harvest rate occurred in the 1942 period, when 35,030 acres or 46% of the watershed area was cut. Since then, harvest rates declined steadily between 1942 and 1988, and then jumped dramatically in the 1989-1999 period, when 42% of the watershed was harvested, as shown in Figure 3. The most intensive harvest has been in the South Fork Planning Watershed: 76% of the entire Planning Watershed was harvested, and in the Campbell Creek subwatershed, multiple entries during the 11-year period resulted in the equivalent of 110% of the subwatershed harvested. Over 80% of Smith Creek, Redwood Creek, and the Middle South Fork subwatersheds were harvested during that period.

The total harvest in the watershed for the 58 year period from 1942 to 1999 was 106,154 acres or 139% of the total watershed area, reflecting that a number of areas have been harvested several times.

The computed surface erosion from skid roads in harvest units suggests a peak in surface erosion coinciding with high harvest rates in the 1942 period, with declining amounts since then. Very little surface erosion was generated in the 1979-1988 period (1,927 tons), but the amount increased to 16,439 tons in the 1989-1999 period due to the major increase in harvest rates. During the 67-year period, GMA estimates that 270,387 tons of sediment eroded from harvest area skid trails, nearly half of this prior to 1942, and one quarter during the 1943-1952 period. This reflects an overall average unit rate of 33.7 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for the 67 year period. The highest rates were in the 1933-1942 period (110 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr), with the greatest production and unit rates in the South Fork Planning Watershed (over 80,000 tons or 209 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr). High production was also seen in the North and Middle Fork Planning Watersheds, although about one quarter of that produced in the South Fork Planning Watershed. High unit rates were also seen in the Lower Ten Mile Planning Watershed (101 t/m<sup>2</sup>/yr). These high rates were also seen in the Lower Ten

Mile Planning Watershed in the 1943-1952 period. Skid road erosion increased in the Middle Fork Planning Watershed in the 1943-1952 period, then decreased slightly in 1953-1965. Erosion was still somewhat high in the North Fork Planning Watershed through 1965. Skid road erosion dropped off considerably in the next two periods, from a high of nearly 8,000 tons in the 1966-1978 period in the North Fork Planning Watershed, to a high of 1,600 tons in the 1979-1988 period in the South Fork Planning Watershed. During the most recent period, production increased substantially, with the majority of the erosion in the South Fork Planning Watershed (nearly 12,000 tons, or 28 t/m<sup>2</sup>/yr). During the 1989-1999 period, over 20,000 tons of sediment was produced, which was about 7.5% of the total for the 67-year period.

### **Fluvial Erosion Results**

GMA used a unit area factor of 200 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for fluvial erosion, which made it one of the single largest contributors of sediment to the overall load. Over the 67 year budget period, this accounts for about 1.6 million tons.

### **Change in Channel Storage Results**

Due to the confined nature of most of the main channels of the three forks of the Ten Mile River, fluvial-induced change in alluvial storage in these areas (i.e., bank erosion or channel deposition) is considered a relatively small portion of the sediment budget for these portions of the watershed. This is not the case for the lower reaches of the North Fork, South Fork, and the entire mainstem, where much more extensive alluvial deposits are present. Little change in the position or vegetation characteristics of the South Fork were seen between 1942 and 1999, suggesting that lower precipitation and lower slopes combine in a more stable floodplain setting. This may also have resulted from less intensive activities right in or adjacent to the channel, as was clearly the case in the North and Middle Forks. Along much of the Lower South Fork, the valley floodplain was wide enough for the early railroads to be set well back from the channel on relatively gentle land and materials excavated in construction of the grades were not dumped directly into the channel.

Compared to landsliding volumes, change in storage volumes are likely to be rather small. GMA estimate that 608,000 tons of sediment were removed from the channel when it widened between 1938 and 1974. If GMA assume that most of this floodplain has been recreated since 1974, as suggested by the dense riparian corridor currently existing along almost the entire channel, then storage increased by an approximately equal amount during the period 1975-1999.

## **TOTAL SEDIMENT LOAD AND SEDIMENT YIELDS**

### **Overview**

Typically, a sediment budget quantifies sediment sources (inputs), by each erosional process, as well as changes in the amount of channel stored sediment, and sediment outputs as measured at a gaging station over a designated time frame or several time periods (Reid and Dunne, 1996, in GMA 2000). Quantifying sediment sources involves determining the volume of sediment

delivered to stream channels by the variety of erosional processes operating within the watershed. For the Ten Mile River watershed, these can be divided into four primary processes or sediment delivery mechanisms: 1) mass movement (landslides), 2) fluvial erosion (i.e., stream bank erosion), 3) surface erosion (rills and sheetwash) and 4) land management activities which directly place sediment in stream channels.

The first three processes can deliver sediment to stream channels both naturally and as a result of land use activities. Sediment production by mass movement processes occurs commonly during large, infrequent storm events, whereas fluvial and surface erosional processes can occur during small storms in virtually every water year or as a result of large storms. Direct sedimentation into stream channels by heavy equipment involved with road/railroad construction and timber harvest was commonplace in the Ten Mile River watershed prior to 1974. After passage of the California Forest Practices Act in 1973, the practice of yarding logs down stream channels, which resulted in direct sedimentation into stream channels, was prohibited. However, many areas are still experiencing elevated sediment yields as a legacy of the former practices. The residence time of such introduced sediments is highly variable, but on the order of years to decades.

## **Inputs**

Table 11 (at end of document) summarizes the Ten Mile River sediment budget, and Table 12 (also at end of document) shows the average annual unit area rates. Overall sediment loading rate averaged 1,124 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr from 1933-1999. The sediment loading rate was much higher in the early periods, dropping to a current (1989-1999) rate of 629 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr (See Figure 6, at end of document). Management inputs comprise about three-quarters of all the current inputs. Road erosion is currently the largest single component of the current loading rate (225 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr), and it is the only component that has increased over the budget period. Fluvial erosion is the next largest current component (200 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr). It represents about 30 percent of the current loading rate.

In previous time periods, the role of sediment delivery from landslides was much more significant, ranging from 40% to 77% of the estimated total sediment inputs. It comprises about 18% in the current period. Under current conditions, sediment loading from road surface erosion is estimated to be almost double that of landsliding (225 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr v. 113 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr).

About 70% of the landsliding is management-related under current conditions (or about 12% of the current input total). Over the entire budget period, it averaged about 95%. About 51% of the sediment inputs for which estimates were developed are management-related under current conditions.

Figure 6 (end of document) illustrates the changes in input rates over the study period. With the exception of the 1953-1965 period, the overall trend is one of decreased sediment inputs.

## Outputs and Sediment Budget

The output side of the sediment budget essentially estimates the amount of sediment that has been or carried through the stream flow and exported from the basin. The estimate was based on regional sediment transport equations, which were developed in this study through evaluation of other basins in the general area of roughly similar characteristics. This process provides data only slightly better than an order of magnitude estimate. Available evidence suggests that our sediment yields may be somewhat low, but well within the likely range. It is provided primarily to provide a way of thinking about channel erosion and aggradation: if outputs are lower than inputs, then the leftover is stored in the channel; if outputs are greater than inputs, then the channel storage is being lost—that is, the banks and channel are eroding. Over time, this roughly balances when the channel storage component is considered, but it only provides a rough estimate.

Computed sediment yields (outputs) for the 67-year study period average 1,015 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr. In general, yields of this magnitude would be considered low in northern California, compared to values from the Eel, Mad, or Redwood Creek basins. However, available information on sediment yields for watersheds in the Mendocino coast suggests that these values are reasonable and perhaps slightly higher than nearby basins. Long-term yields for the Noyo River, with very similar characteristics, were 979 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr (GMA 1999, in GMA 2000) while for those for Caspar Creek fall in the same general range, with adjusted estimates of 793 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr (Cafferata/Stillwater Sciences, pers. comm. 1999, in GMA 2000). While it is possible that regional sediment transport data somewhat overestimate the sediment transport characteristics of the Ten Mile watershed, it is probable that the method used (involving mean daily flows instead of typically 15-min instantaneous flows) underestimates sediment transport due to the power relationship between flow and sediment.

The preliminary sediment budget for the Ten Mile River watershed between 1933 and 1999 is shown in Table 11 (at end of document). Detailed explanations for the various input and output elements can be found in GMA (2000). Estimated inputs total 9,007,000 tons over the 67-year period, while computed outflow is 8,093,000 tons. Although these values are surprisingly similar, evidence suggests that the sediment outflow may be over-estimated by the regional approach and underestimated by the computational method, with a net result to the output calculations that is unknown. At the same time, various input sources are likely to be underestimated, both because of information available and the limitations of the analytic techniques. Assigning a great deal of confidence to the sediment budget numbers because they are quite similar, would be a mistake given the uncertainties in certain methods and assumptions used. What the sediment budget may suggest, since the numbers are nearly balanced is that much of the sediment generated during the 1940s-1970s pre-forest practice rules period has likely flushed through the system (GMA 2000).

## CHAPTER V LINKAGE ANALYSIS

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This chapter analyzes the relationships between hillslope processes and in-stream effects. In Chapter III, water quality targets are defined that interpret the applicable water quality standards for sediment. Load allocations are established in Chapter VI that establish limits on the allowable sediment loading from various watershed sources. The linkage analysis provides the basis for calculating the loading capacity of the water body (the TMDL) and the load allocations that, when met, will result in attainment of the applicable water quality criteria for sediment.

Although the best available science does not yet provide for a mathematical linkage between sediment loadings and instream water quality, there is a clear qualitative basis for the linkage. EPA is describing this linkage for the Ten Mile River using a qualitative, weight-of-evidence approach using the best available information. There are correlations between timber harvest and landsliding rates and between watershed disturbance in the basin and the proportion of fine sediment in the stream channel bottom. Correlations are also apparent between the water quality indicators and coho presence/absence.

No one time period in the Ten Mile River basin can serve as a reference period to determine loading capacity. Management activities were intensive and occupied much of the basin in the early part of the century, but we do not have adequate information to determine any appropriate loading rate based on water quality conditions at the time. Existing information is limited to a single source suggesting that there were over 6,000 coho in the early 1960s, while there are only somewhere between 14-351 today. In addition, it appears that chinook were native to the basin, but were extirpated well before the period for which we have any loading rates, which suggests that the loading rates may have been too high for the fishery at a very early time. This is not adequate to determine a loading rate based on an historical period in the Ten Mile River.

There is no currently-unmanaged basin in the Ten Mile region that can serve as a reference condition. However, conditions in the nearby Noyo River basin during the reference period determined for the Noyo TMDL provide an appropriate reference, since the two basins are geologically similar, and many factors in the source analysis indicate similar conditions. The Ten Mile River basin and the Noyo River basin have essentially the same capacity to assimilate sediment loading. because the two basins are close in proximity and have similar characteristics of geology, vegetation, orientation, and land use history. The loading capacity determined for the Noyo River is also expected to achieve water quality standards for sediment.

In summary, the linkage analysis for the Ten Mile River TMDL is based on the following:

- The correlation between substrate quality (% fine sediment < 0.85 mm) and watershed disturbance.
- Decreased Sediment Loading is Expected to Improve Salmonid Habitat
- Comparison with the Noyo River Basin
- Road-Related Sediment

## **Correlation Between Substrate Quality and Watershed Disturbance**

Excess sediment loading from management activities is an important cause of water quality decline on the Mendocino Coast. Decreased sediment loading is expected to improve water quality conditions, which should also result in improved salmon habitat, and potentially increased salmon populations.

The correlation between substrate quality (% fine sediment < 0.85 mm) and watershed disturbance suggests that decreased watershed disturbance will result in decreased fine sediment concentrations. As has been true in the past, based on the source analysis, it is expected that the decreased loading required by the TMDL will result from decreased disturbance in the future, which will in turn result in increased substrate quality.

Substrate quality (i.e., percentage of fine sediment < 0.85 mm) is one of the few direct sediment measurements that is available in the Ten Mile basin. In an effort to determine whether a correlation exists between substrate quality and relative level of watershed disturbance, GMA (2000) analyzed the data from each of the 20 G-P/Campbell Timberlands sediment monitoring stations. GMA defined “watershed disturbance” as a product of road density, percent of subwatershed that had been harvested in the 1989-1999 period, and the unit area volume of landslides mapped for the 1989-1999 period.

Figure 7 (end of document) shows the relationship between relative disturbance index and substrate quality for the subwatersheds for which data were available. Although there is a considerable amount of scatter in this relationship, the correlation is apparent. Further review of the relationship suggested that two distinct groupings of subwatersheds appeared to exist. Figure 8 (end of document) subdivides these groupings, which may represent areas with different sensitivities to disturbance. Thus, the analysis suggests that certain subwatershed areas may be less sensitive to disturbance than others (GMA 2000).

The Ten Mile River sediment source analysis (GMA 2000) shows that decreasing rates of disturbance and improved practices over time in the Ten Mile basin have resulted in lower sediment delivery rates. Hines (2000, in GMA 2000) hypothesizes that, where fine sediment concentrations are decreasing, it is the result of continuing long-term recovery from previous intensive disturbances. EPA anticipates that additional reductions in disturbance and continued improvements in practices and restoration projects will result in additional sediment reductions, which will improve instream conditions. Development of a more sophisticated disturbance index utilizing improved road and fluvial erosion sediment delivery values could well result in a stronger correlation, which could provide a basis for prioritization of sediment reduction efforts throughout the watershed (GMA 2000).

## **Critical Habitat Parameters and Coho Abundance**

Water quality targets and coho abundance appear to be correlated, and decreased loadings will facilitate achievement of those targets and therefore coho support. In general, the subwatersheds that contain the better coho streams (i.e., those in which salmon have been observed spawning

and/or rearing with some recent consistency), tend to have lower sediment loading rates than most of the other subwatersheds in the basin over the past decade.

Mangelsdorf and Clyde (2000, in GMA 2000) compared habitat and other conditions with coho presence/absence information, where available for stream reaches within the Ten Mile. Coho are generally present in the Bear Haven Creek, Little North Fork, Smith Creek, Campbell Creek, the Middle Fork and South Forks, and Churchman Creek. With the exception of Churchman Creek, all of these streams shared habitat characteristics related to channel type, pool frequency and type, large woody debris, and temperature.

These better coho stream reaches also tend to have lower than average sediment loading rates (see Table 7, end of document). For example, Bear Haven Creek and Little North Fork, which are two of the best coho streams (i.e., coho are consistently found) have among the lowest loading rates over the 67-year study period, and lower than average for the past decade. Bear Haven Creek's loading rate in the recent decade is a third of the average. Loading rates for the past decade in Campbell Creek and Smith Creek are less than one-third average and just below average, respectively. The loading rates for these two subwatersheds has been consistently lower than average beginning in 1953. High rates in earlier periods may be related to the more intensive harvest during those periods, and lower rates since then may be related to recovery.

Coho are found in both the mainstem Middle and South Forks, though it is not clear exactly where in the mainstem they are found, and which subwatersheds this would correspond to. Overall, loading rates in the Middle and South Fork Planning Watersheds are just below average for the 67 year period. The Upper Middle Fork subwatershed is below average, while the Middle Middle Fork subwatershed is about average, and the Lower Middle Fork is above average. It may be that the Upper and Middle Middle Fork reaches are the better areas, but this is not known. In the South Fork, the Upper and Lower South Fork subwatersheds have loading rates well below average. The Middle South Fork subwatershed is slightly above average, but it may be within the range of tolerance, or this may be an exception, or it may be that coho are not found as consistently in this reach of the South Fork. Similarly, Churchman Creek has slightly higher than average loading rates. These two areas may be an exception, as is Churchman Creek an exception relative to habitat data.

Additional data and analysis may reinforce the linkage, or may suggest other factors that influence the linkage. For example, Lower North Fork, Little Bear Haven Creek and Redwood Creek subwatersheds have lower than average loading rates, but surveys have been inconsistently conducted in those stream reaches.

### **Comparison with the Noyo River Basin**

Geology and land use conditions in the Ten Mile basin are similar in many ways to those in the Noyo River basin. The reference used to calculate sediment loading capacity for the Noyo River TMDL is also appropriate for the Ten Mile River. In the Noyo River TMDL, the period of 1993-1957 was chosen as a reference period, despite the watershed impacts associated with earlier old

growth logging, due to several factors. First, anecdotal information suggested that coho were well represented in the basin in this period. Second, it was assumed that good coho populations were accompanied by adequate instream habitat. Third, aerial photos existed for this period from which to estimate sediment delivery. Fourth, the analysis of sediment delivery allowed for the development of a relationship between management and background sediment delivery rates.

In the Noyo River, 1933-1957 was a relatively less disturbed period in the basin. There was harvest activity, but the fish populations had not yet declined. The loading rate during this period was approximately 470 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr. EPA considers this to be an appropriate rate for the Ten Mile River basin as well. Given the similarities between the basins, EPA has determined, using best professional judgement, that the loading capacities of the two basins should be similar. Therefore, EPA is proposing a loading capacity or TMDL of 470 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for the Ten Mile River basin.

While there is little other background information to consult, studies in nearby Caspar Creek also support this loading rate as appropriate: the background sediment loading rate for the North Fork Caspar Creek has been estimated at 451 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for the 1968-1998 period, if no second growth logging had been undertaken (Cafferata and Sitter 1998 and Lewis 1998, in Mangelsdorf 2000)

EPA is also proposing an alternative method of using the Noyo River loading capacity. For that basin, background loading was estimated at 370 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr. The loading capacity of 470 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr is approximately 27% higher than background. This is based on the hypothesis that a water body can assimilate a certain proportion of load over its background rate while still meeting water quality standards. This alternative is also based on the assumption that the ratio of loading capacity to background loading for the Noyo River basin would also be appropriate for the Ten Mile River basin. This yields a loading capacity of 390 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for the Ten Mile River (using 25% over background as a conservative estimate, and rounding off the load amount to the nearest 5). The background rate in the Ten Mile basin is estimated at 311 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for the 67-year period of 1933-1999. Thus, using this method the loading capacity and TMDL would be 125% of 311, or 390 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr. This is an even more conservative estimate of the loading capacity and TMDL.

## **Road-Related Sediment**

Road-related sediment may be the largest current (and potentially future) source of sediment, and may be affecting the concentration of fine sediment in stream channels.

GMA (2000) determined that sediment loading rates related to surface erosion from roads have generally continued to increase during the past several decades. This may also be associated with the generally high proportions of fine sediment found in stream bottom samples, since surface erosion from roads probably contributes more sediment in the finer size fractions. This increase appears to be generally related to the sheer number of roads, since road construction techniques have undoubtedly improved over past practices. In addition, more roads were built in the last decade, particularly in the South Fork, where harvest levels increased significantly as an approximately 50-year harvest rotation came on line. It is possible that effects from recent road building and timber harvest activities in the South Fork Planning Watershed have not yet been

evident in the stream channel. This would be important to monitor over time in the future. However, given that the Middle and North Fork Planning Watersheds are apparently still recovering from earlier harvest practices (Hines 2000, in GMA 2000), it may be even more critical to protect hillslope conditions in those areas prior to and during timber harvest activities that can probably be expected within the next decade.

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **TMDL AND LOAD ALLOCATIONS**

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This chapter establishes the loading capacity of the Ten Mile River for sediment and apportions it among the sources, after accounting for background loading. The TMDL and the load allocations are expressed as 10-year rolling averages due to the considerable year-to-year variability in sediment loading rates.

#### **CALCULATION OF THE TMDL AND LOAD ALLOCATIONS**

For the Ten Mile River, EPA is defining the TMDL as the current loading capacity (i.e., the total loading of sediment that can be delivered to the river and still attain the applicable water quality criteria for sediment). EPA is proposing two methods of determining the loading capacity and TMDL, both based on using the nearby Noyo River loading capacity, since the conditions in the two basins are similar (see Chapter V). EPA is seeking comment on the alternatives.

The loading capacity (i.e., the TMDL) is apportioned among the various sources of the pollutant so as to focus attention on the sources that are influenced by human activities. In establishing TMDLs, EPA generally apportions the loading capacity among: (1) the background loading; (2) the wasteland allocations for point sources; and (3) the load allocations for non-point sources. For this TMDL, there are no point sources, so the wasteland allocations equal zero. Therefore, the TMDL for the Ten Mile River can be divided into the background loading and the load allocations.

The proposed TMDLs and Load Allocations are expressed as an average annual loading rate, and is intended to be interpreted as a 10-year rolling average, which more appropriately describes sediment loadings that can achieve water quality conditions than if it were expressed as a daily load.

Load allocations are expressed as an average over the entire watershed; however, the Regional Water Board may determine that its implementation plan could benefit by a distinction among the different Planning Watersheds, or more detailed analysis of the data, or additional information from other studies that may become available at a future time. Additional refinement will be left to the discretion of the Regional Water Board.

#### **Alternative 1: Based on Noyo River TMDL of 470 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr**

The first alternative uses the same loading capacity and TMDL as the Noyo River, which is 470 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr (see Table 13). For the Ten Mile River, 311 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr is attributable to background sources. The remaining 159 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr is allocated among road surface erosion (78 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr), skid trails (12 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr) and management-related landsliding (69 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr). Under this alternative, an overall reduction of approximately 50% of current management sources would be needed to achieve these loadings, with the most aggressive reductions needed for road surface erosion.

**TABLE 13:**  
**PROPOSED TMDL AND LOAD ALLOCATIONS - ALTERNATIVE 1**

Based on Noyo River Loading Capacity Rate of 470 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr

Source	Current Load Estimate (1989-1999) tons/mi <sup>2</sup> /yr	Load Allocation tons/mi <sup>2</sup> /yr	Percent Reduction Necessary
<b>MANAGEMENT-ASSOCIATED</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>50%</b>
TOTAL MANAGEMENT LANDSLIDING	78	69	12%
SKID TRAILS	15	12	20%
ROAD SURFACE EROSION	225	78	65%
<b>NON MANAGEMENT-ASSOCIATED</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>0%</b>
NON-MANAGEMENT LANDSLIDING*	36	36	0%
SOIL CREEP	75	75	0%
FLUVIAL EROSION	200	200	0%
<b>TOTAL LOADING (TMDL)</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>25%</b>

#### **Alternative 2: Based on 125% of Background Loading**

As discussed in the previous chapter, EPA is also seeking comment on a second alternative load allocation, also based on the Noyo River TMDL (see Table 14). In this case, the loading capacity and TMDL for the Ten Mile River (390 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr, or 25% over the background level of 311 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr) was determined using a similar proportion over background loading.. Under this alternative, even greater reductions of management-related sources would be needed to meet the allocations, as only 79 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr would be available to be allocated amongst management-related loads: 75% overall reductions, nearly 85% of road surface erosion and nearly 60% of landsliding..

**TABLE 14:  
PROPOSED TMDL AND LOAD ALLOCATIONS - ALTERNATIVE 2**

Based on 125% of background loading.

Source	Current Load Estimate (1989-1999) tons/mi <sup>2</sup> /yr	Load Allocation tons/mi <sup>2</sup> /yr	Percent Reduction Necessary
<b>MANAGEMENT-ASSOCIATED</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75%</b>
TOTAL MANAGEMENT LANDSLIDING	78	34	56%
SKID TRAILS	15	12	20%
ROAD SURFACE EROSION	225	33	85%
<b>NON MANAGEMENT-ASSOCIATED</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>0%</b>
NON-MANAGEMENT LANDSLIDING*	36	36	0%
SOIL CREEP	75	75	0%
FLUVIAL EROSION	200	200	0%
<b>TOTAL LOADING (TMDL)</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>38%</b>

### Summary

TMDL = Background loading + WLA + LA

Background = 311 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr for the Ten Mile River

WLA (Waste Load Allocation) = 0, as there are no point sources in the basin.

Alternative 1: LA = 470 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr (about a 50% reduction over current estimates).

Alternative 2: LA = 390 tons/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr (about a 75% reduction over current estimates).

### Load Allocations

EPA considered several factors in setting load allocations for various source categories, including the effectiveness of available methods of controlling sediment from the particular source

category, the likelihood of future sediment delivery growth, the type of sediment that is likely to be delivered from a particular source, and the feasibility of monitoring to determine compliance with the allocations.

Load allocations are expressed for management-associated landsliding, road surface erosion, and skid trails. They are also expressed as percentage reductions from the current loads (based on the 1989-99 sediment delivery rates) to illustrate the estimated decrease needed to attain water quality standards.. (See Tables 13 and 14).

The allocations suggest that most of the needed reductions would come from road surface erosion (65% for Alternative 1 and 85% for Alternative 2). This is currently the largest cause of sediment inputs to the system, and the only input that has continuously increased during the entire study period, and may likely increase further without additional controls as more harvest activity takes place in the North and Middle Fork Planning Watersheds. Increased surface erosion from roads would certainly contribute to continued decline in water quality conditions, particularly those related to fine sediment and sediment embeddedness, which relates directly to spawning and emergence success for salmonids. Additional sediment inputs would also contribute to the decline of the other identified critical habitat parameters. Improved methodologies for conducting road inventories and “storm-proofing” roads are now available to land managers which, if implemented, will lead to dramatic reductions in sediment from historic road-related loading rates (Weaver and Hagans, 1994). EPA has identified roads as a source amenable to aggressive sediment reduction efforts in other North Coast TMDLs as well. Thus, EPA has determined that aggressive treatment of road-related erosion is most appropriate for the allocations.

Surface erosion from skid trails also needs to be reduced. Based on the load allocation of 10 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr, it should be reduced by 20% over current levels for both alternatives.

Management-related landsliding is more difficult to treat. Nevertheless, some reductions can be made with continued treatment of roads, careful placement of new roads, maintenance of roads and stream crossings, upgrading roads and stream crossings to prevent hydrologic connectivity to watercourses, and potential for failure and diversion. New roads should also be constructed to these high standards (Weaver and Hagans 1994). For harvest areas, continued or expanded emphasis on cable yarding and minimization of tractor yarding, as well as avoidance of geologically unstable areas can result in minimization of landslides from harvest activities.

## **CHAPTER VII**

### **MARGIN OF SAFETY, SEASONAL VARIATION AND CRITICAL CONDITIONS**

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Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and the regulations at 40 CFR 130.7 require that TMDLs be established at levels necessary to attain and maintain the applicable narrative and numerical water quality standards with seasonal variations and a margin of safety which takes into account any lack of knowledge concerning the relationship between effluent limitations and water quality. The regulations also require that TMDLs account for critical conditions for stream flow, loading, and water quality parameters. The margin of safety can be incorporated into conservative assumptions used to develop the TMDL or added as a separate, quantitative component of the TMDL (USEPA, 1991).

#### **MARGIN OF SAFETY**

As set forth in EPA guidance (EPA, 1991) the margin of safety can be incorporated into conservative assumptions used to develop the TMDL or added as a separate, quantitative component of the TMDL. This TMDL incorporates an implicit margin of safety through use of the conservative assumptions discussed in this chapter.

#### **Targets**

Water Quality Targets were chosen that consider a range of factors for the protection of water quality related to sediment. These include:

- Consideration of limiting factors that are both primarily and secondarily related to sedimentation, such as substrate composition (primary),  $V^*$  (primary), thalweg profile variation and habitat indicators (secondary);
- Development of conservative water quality targets where the scientific literature supports them (e.g., percent fines);
- Conservative assumptions, where data are sparse, regarding which limiting factors are potentially affecting coho salmon; and
- Conservative assumptions with respect to the direct nature of the relationship between hillslope sediment production and in-stream effect.
- Because existing in-stream data are limited, the targets represent the optimal conditions for beneficial use support for salmonids and include targets for watershed conditions (hillslope and roads), which will result in prevention of additional sediment directly deposited into the water bodies.

#### **Source Analysis**

Conservative assumptions were made in the source analysis to account for uncertainty, as described by GMA (2000). In general, the assumptions resulted in an overestimate of sediment

loads associated with management activities. This would suggest that fairly aggressive sediment reduction strategies need to be undertaken in order to meet load allocations.

### **TMDL and Load Allocations**

The Ten Mile River TMDL is based on the loading capacity for the Noyo River TMDL. That TMDL is also based on conservative assumptions, and contains an inherent margin of safety. In choosing the same loading capacity, the same conservative assumptions apply to the Ten Mile River TMDL.

The original estimate of background loading was 290 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr. Based on our conclusion that this was underestimates, EPA adjusted the background loading to 311 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr. This resulted in 21 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr that was not available for allocation, and thus functions as a margin of safety.

Background loading from fluvial erosion is probably underestimated, since it is all assigned to non-management causes, and some bank erosion is probably management-related. Thus, no allocation is made for management-caused bank erosion, which essentially functions as a margin of safety for that particular source.

EPA determined that historical loading rates within the basin were not low enough to use as a reference period within the basin. A loading capacity and TMDL was selected that is lower than any historical period in the basin's history.

For alternative 2, this higher background level results in a slightly higher loading allocation than would result from the 290 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr. However, Alternative 2 is an alternative that itself functions as a margin of safety. Alternative 2 is 80 t/mi<sup>2</sup>/yr less than Alternative 1, which was already based on conservative assumptions.

### **Annual and Seasonal Variation**

There is inherent annual and seasonal variation in the delivery of sediment to stream systems as the result of variation in rainfall patterns. There is also considerable spatial variation resulting from numerous factors, including: slope, geology, aspect, vegetation, soil type, etc. Surface erosion, including erosion from roads, occurs on an annual basis, but primarily as a result of winter rains. Surface erosion from ridge top roads, however, is much less likely to enter a watercourse than that from stream-side roads. Mass wasting occurs as a result of large storms, but is more likely in inner gorges and headwall swales, for example, than on gently sloping terrain.

Because of the large temporal and spatial variation in erosion and sediment delivery, the sediment load allocations are designed to apply to the *sources* of sediment, not the movement of sediment across the landscape or delivery of sediment to the stream channel. Also, the load allocations are to be applied as 10-year rolling averages.

There is also inherent annual and seasonal variation in the condition of the in-stream environment resulting from variation in sediment delivery, flow, and the longevity of large woody debris, for example. In addition, there is considerable spatial variation resulting from variation in channel slope, geology, aspect, vegetation, topography, etc. The in-stream and hillslope targets established as part of this TMDL take into account this variation, but in different ways. The in-stream targets are indicators that are generally collected during the summer months when stream flows are low and field crews can safely enter the stream for monitoring. The indicators are directly and indirectly related to factors potentially limiting the success of coho salmon in the Ten Mile River watershed. And they are all related to the issue of sedimentation, either as a primary factor (e.g., sediment composition) or as a secondary factor (e.g., large woody debris-formed habitat).

The hillslope targets are specifically designed with variation in rainfall and peak flows in mind. The road crossing failure and flow diversion targets will require regular assessment of road facilities before and after the effects of storms of a specific recurrence interval (e.g., 10 years). Conformance with the disturbance area and hydrologic connectivity targets can be assessed remotely via GIS, for example. However, they specifically track critical changes in the landscape over time that influence the rates of erosion and peak flows resulting from variable climatic events.

It is difficult to accurately predict the specific impacts of sediment loading at particular times and places on particular salmonid life stages as they occur throughout a watershed. There are substantial and poorly defined spatial and temporal lags between sediment delivery and the occurrence of sediment-related impacts on beneficial uses. Therefore, the approach taken in this TMDL is to:

- Establish conservative in-stream targets that interpret narrative water quality standards and address the factors potentially limiting the success of salmonids in the Ten Mile River watershed, including factors that are secondarily related to sedimentation;
- Select hillslope indicators that are directly related to management-induced sedimentation, including targets associated with sediment delivery and hydrologic modification;
- Establish conservative hillslope targets based on scientific literature, reference streams, and best professional judgement; and,
- Establish conservative load allocations based on estimates of current and historic rates of sediment delivery.

### **Critical Conditions**

The regulations at 40 CFR 130.7 state that TMDLs shall take into account critical conditions for stream flow, loading and water quality parameters. This TMDL does not explicitly estimate critical flow conditions for several reasons. First, unlike many pollutants (e.g. acutely toxic chemicals) sediment impacts on beneficial uses may occur long after sediment is discharged, often at locations far downstream from the point of discharge. Second, sediment impacts are rarely correlated closely with flow over short time periods. Third, it is impractical to accurately measure sediment loading, transport, and short term effects during high magnitude flow events which usually produce most sediment loading and channel modification in systems such as the

Ten Mile River basin. Therefore, the approach used in this TMDL to account for critical conditions is to use include indicators that can address sediment sources and watershed conditions, addressing lag times from production to delivery, and which are reflective of the net long term effects of sediment loading, transport, deposition, and associated receiving water flows. Instream indicators may be effectively measured at lower flow conditions at roughly annual intervals, and hillslope indicators can assist in tracking the implementation of measures to improve water quality conditions. Inclusion of a large margin of safety helps to ensure that the TMDL will result in beneficial use protection during and after critical flow periods associated with maximum sedimentation events.

Critical conditions concerning stream habitat status and recovery may change substantially following major storms (e.g., storms with a recurrence interval of approximately 50 years or more). Such storms and the associated floods and huge sediment loads can have the effect of changing the channel configuration so dramatically and suddenly that it effectively “recalibrates” the relationships between channel size and flow and sediment conditions for decades to follow. It may be appropriate for the State to reconsider the TMDL and associated allocations following such an event.

## **CHAPTER VIII**

### **IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Federal regulations require states to identify measures needed to implement TMDLs in state water quality management plans (40 CFR 130.6). EPA has established policies which emphasize the importance of timely development of measures to implement TMDLs that address nonpoint source discharges (memorandum from Robert Perciasepe, Assistant Administrator for Water, to EPA Regional Division Directors, August 8, 1997). EPA expects the State of California to develop and ensure the prompt implementation of source control measures adequate to achieve the allocations in this TMDL.

EPA expects that the State of California will develop implementation measures, and incorporate the TMDL and implementation measures into the Basin Plan, as required by 40 CFR 130.6. The State of California should also establish a monitoring and evaluation plan that identifies parties responsible for implementation and monitoring and establishes a time frame for Regional Water Board review of monitoring results.

#### **Specific Recommendations for the Ten Mile River Basin**

Achieving either alternative TMDL proposal would also be facilitated by continued improvements in management practices, including harvest practices that minimize ground disturbance, continued watershed and stream restoration, including closing roads that are no longer needed, hydrologically disconnecting temporary roads, upgrading road crossings, including larger culvert sizes and decreasing diversion potential, upgraded road surfacing and upgraded drainage on older roads that are still needed.

Implementation of both alternatives could include additional site-specific inventories of roads and other sediment delivery areas, so that if particular locations are already found to be meeting load allocations, then additional sediment reductions will not be necessary. Alternatively, inventories might serve to further identify sources of sediment that are producing greater than the designated load allocations, and can readily be corrected.

Mangelsdorf and Clyde (2000) determined that coho salmon habitat in the Ten Mile River watershed could be significantly improved with reductions in sediment delivery, protection and improvement in riparian functions, increases in large woody debris for sediment metering and habitat, and modification of stream channel type.

Potential watershed improvements are identified for each of the tributaries of the Ten Mile River watershed, divided by priority. High priority streams are refuge streams or streams tributary to refuge streams. Moderate priority streams are non-coho streams with habitat characteristics that could be improved for coho salmon or streams that are tributary to restorable coho streams. The main forks are low priority streams since improvements in upstream sediment delivery, sediment metering, and stream temperature are necessary before significant instream changes can be expected.

### *High priority streams*

1. The Little North Fork Ten Mile River is one of the watershed's strongest coho streams. It appears that where sediment delivery rates reduced, habitat conditions could be significantly improved: lower percentage of fines (<0.85 mm) in the substrate, lower embeddedness, and deeper pools. The tributaries to Little North Fork Ten Mile River may be significant sediment contributors.
2. Bear Haven Creek is another of the strongest coho streams in the watershed. With the exception of limited backwater pools, the primary issue of concern in Bear Haven Creek appears to be aggradation. Sediment delivery reductions in the Bear Haven Creek basin should be a high priority. Improvements to LWD volumes may also improve sediment metering and backwater pool formation.
3. Smith Creek and Campbell Creek are two other strong coho streams in the Ten Mile River watershed. Habitat conditions could potentially be improved by reducing fine sediment loading and improving the sediment metering and scouring functions of the stream channels with an increase in LWD volume. Temperatures in Campbell Creek could potentially be improved by increasing the streamside canopy.
4. Habitat conditions in Churchman Creek could potentially be improved by reducing fine sediment loading and improving sediment metering and scouring functions of the stream channel with an increase in LWD volume.
5. In Blair Gulch, Barlow Gulch, and Buckhorn Gulch, most reported habitat characteristics are not favorable to coho salmon. Only the streamside canopy and stream temperatures of these tributaries favor the presence of coho. These tributaries may also be significant contributors of sediment to Little North Fork Ten Mile River. Thus, they should be a high priority for sediment delivery reduction. A major conversion of channel type from F-type channel to C-type channel might provide greater salmonid habitat (if this is geomorphically appropriate). However, the significance of the effort would make this a low restoration priority. Coho salmon have been observed in Buckhorn Creek once before. As such, instream restoration work in Buckhorn Creek may take precedence over the others in this list.
6. McGuire Creek does not appear to offer significant potential coho habitat. It does, however, appear to be substantially aggraded and may be contributing to elevated sediment downstream in the Little North Fork Ten Mile River. As such, McGuire Creek should be a high priority for sediment delivery reduction.

### *Moderate priority streams*

Bald Hill Creek is in many respects similar to the Little North Fork except for the absence of C-type channel. It may be possible appropriate to modify conditions and convert some of the F-type channel found in Bald Hill Creek to C-type channel, but it will not regain access to its former floodplain, which is now a defined terrace. Most significantly, Bald Hill Creek could benefit from LWD placement for improved scouring. Sediment delivery reduction does not appear to be a high priority here. Coho salmon have been observed here once before.

Habitat conditions in Little Bear Haven Creek could potentially be improved by reducing sediment delivery and improving sediment metering and channel scouring abilities with an increase in LWD volume. Little Bear Haven Creek has C-type channel and thus may have potential as a coho stream.

Habitat conditions in Redwood Creek could potentially be improved by reducing sediment delivery and improving sediment metering and channel scouring abilities with an increase in LWD volume. Improvements to streamside canopy may improve instream temperatures, as well. Coho salmon have been observed here once before.

Bald Hill Creek, Little Bear Haven Creek and Redwood Creek are streams in which coho currently appear to be absent but in which coho may have spawned and reared in the recent past. As such, the restoration of these streams as coho streams is a relatively important endeavor.

Cavanough Gulch, O'Connor Gulch, Gulch 8, Gulch 11, Gulch 19, Gulch 23, and Patsy Creek do not appear to offer significant potential coho habitat. They do, however, appear to be substantially aggraded and may be contributing to elevated sediment downstream in the North Fork Ten Mile River.

Booth Gulch and Gulch 27 do not appear to offer significant potential coho habitat. They do, however, appear to be substantially aggraded and may be contributing to elevated sediment downstream in the Clark Fork Ten Mile River.

### **Additional Monitoring Needs**

Mangelsdorf and Clyde (2000) also identified additional data needs in the basin. The habitat inventories available for the Ten Mile River watershed provide an extraordinary snap shot of habitat conditions. Similarly, the population data, temperature data, and substrate composition data are incredibly useful for understanding conditions and trends in the basin. The availability of each of these data sets in electronic form for each of the years in which they were collected would vastly improve the ability of Regional Water Board staff to analyze it. Some additional parameters that would help better understand changes in sedimentation in the basin, include: longitudinal profiles, cross-sections,  $V^*$ , and LWD volume and distribution.

Some locations where substrate data could confirm suspected aggradation include: Blair Gulch, Barlow Gulch, McGuire Creek, Cavanough Gulch, O'Connor Gulch, Gulch 8, Gulch 11, Gulch 19, Gulch 23, and Gulch 27

Continued and improved spawning, rearing, and outmigrant salmonid population studies are necessary to keep close track of the success of the few remaining native coho salmon.

## **CHAPTER IX**

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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Federal regulations require that TMDLs be subject to public review (40 CFR 130.7). The State of California and EPA have provided for public review through several mechanisms.

To date, EPA has solicited the following public involvement.

- Telephone and face-to-face meetings were conducted with landowners in the watershed and citizens groups concerned with the watershed and with the Mendocino Coast (1999-2000).
- A public meeting, advertised in local media as well as by directly contacting interested participants, was held in the Fort Bragg Town Hall. EPA provided an overview of the TMDL process for the Ten Mile River, Regional Water Board staff described the results of their Aquatic Conditions Assessment, and Graham GMA presented the results of his sediment source analysis. The public was encouraged to comment on the findings. (August 2000).
- A public meeting will be held November 21, 2000 to present this proposed TMDL and to answer questions of the community. This meeting will also be widely announced.
- A draft of the Regional Water Board's Assessment of Aquatic Conditions (Mangelsdorf and Clyde 2000) and GMA's Sediment Source Analysis (GMA 2000) are being circulated to interested parties and placed at local libraries and public agencies with this public review draft TMDL.

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TABLE 6

## TEN MILE RIVER SEDIMENT SOURCE ANALYSIS

L MES F EL ER N SL ES L N SE W TERSHE S ERCENT E F W RSW T T L  
( LL L ES NT NS)

PLANNING WATERSHED		rainage rea (mi <sup>2</sup> )	FOREST	HARVEST					ROADS					GRAZING	TOTAL
Sub-Watershed				Clear Cut	artial Cut	Harvest ( 20 yrs)	Harvest ( 20 yrs)	Skid Trails	T T L	Road Cut	Road Fill	RR Cut	RR Fill		
NORTH FORK TEN MILE	38.97	2.8	2.7	2.3	6.7	32.0	6.5	50.2	6.3	37.4	2.4	0.3	46.4	0.5	38.3
pper North Fork Ten Mile River	10.40	6.5	0	0	16.2	3.8	1.4	21.4	2.9	54.9	0	0	57.8	14.4	1.5
Middle North Fork Ten Mile River	8.98	0.3	0	2.2	0.3	47.3	0.6	50.4	3.1	46.2	0	0	49.3	0	21.4
ald Hill Creek	5.14	10.2	0	2.3	23.1	5.3	23.1	53.8	7.9	28.0	0	0	36.0	0	3.9
Lower North Fork Ten Mile River	6.70	5.9	6.4	1.8	14.1	12.7	6.4	41.3	16.7	28.3	6.1	1.6	52.7	0	8.0
Little North Fork Ten Mile River	7.75	1.3	14.6	4.8	7.0	24.0	26.7	77.2	1.3	7.4	12.9	0	21.5	0	3.5
MIDDLE FORK TEN MILE	33.45	3.6	5.2	2.9	10.0	21.7	17.0	56.7	13.2	19.3	3.9	3.3	39.6	0.0	24.6
pper Middle Fork Ten Mile River	11.64	11.2	0.2	0	11.3	22.7	16.6	50.8	0.9	25.2	0	11.8	37.9	0	6.3
Middle Middle Fork Ten Mile River	6.45	2.6	5.2	1.3	0	45.5	12.8	64.7	2.6	30.1	0	0	32.7	0	5.6
Little ear Haven Creek	3.00	0	0	0	9.0	38.3	32.8	80.0	0.3	19.7	0	0	20.0	0	1.6
ear Haven Creek	6.60	0.2	0.5	12.3	50.3	13.6	1.6	78.3	16.5	1.8	1.1	2.3	21.6	0	2.7
Lower Middle Fork Ten Mile River	5.76	0.5	11.7	3.6	2.6	4.0	22.2	44.1	31.1	13.2	11.1	0	55.5	0	8.3
SOUTH FORK TEN MILE	38.39	0.1	0.6	1.3	25.3	63.6	0.6	91.5	2.9	5.0	0.3	0.0	8.2	0.1	30.2
pper South Fork Ten Mile River	8.18	0	0.1	0	4.8	83.1	1.2	89.2	1.4	9.4	0	0	10.8	0	3.9
Redwood Creek	7.87	0	0	0	55.9	40.4	0	96.3	0.3	3.4	0	0	3.7	0	2.8
Churchman Creek	3.96	0	1.5	11.5	12.0	46.0	2.2	73.1	6.0	20.8	0	0	26.9	0	3.5
Middle South Fork Ten Mile River	5.52	0	2.0	0	21.4	64.3	1.0	88.7	5.7	5.6	0	0	11.3	0	5.2
Campbell Creek	4.25	0	0.1	0	13.4	86.6	0	100.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	6.7
Smith Creek	5.49	0.4	0.3	0	40.2	54.6	0.2	95.2	4.3	0.1	0	0	4.4	0	7.2
Lower South Fork Ten Mile River	3.12	2.1	0.7	0.6	68.5	10.1	0	79.9	0	3.8	9.9	0	13.7	4.3	0.8
LOWER TEN MILE	8.83	3.2	26.7	0.0	8.7	16.9	8.3	60.6	11.0	18.9	5.6	0.0	35.5	0.7	6.9
Mainstem Ten Mile River	4.28	3.2	41.0	0	4.6	20.7	6.6	73.0	9.1	10.8	3.8	0	23.7	0.1	4.3
Mill Creek	2.71	3.7	4.2	0	17.8	10.0	13.0	44.9	14.5	36.9	0	0	51.4	0	2.3
Ten Mile River Estuary	1.84	0	0	0	0	15.2	0	15.2	11.4	2.6	59.3	0	73.4	11.5	0.4
TEN MILE RIVER WATERSHED	119.64	2.2	4.3	2.0	13.3	38.0	7.4	65.0	7.3	21.9	2.4	0.9	32.5	0.3	100

Source: Matthews 2000

TABLE 7

## TEN MILE RIVER SEDIMENT SOURCE ANALYSIS

ER E NN L NT RE L MES F SL ES ST ER W TERSHE

PLANNING WATERSHED		1942	1952	1965	1978	1988	1999	67-YR AVG
rainage rea		10 years, 1933-1942	10 years, 1943-1952	13 years, 1953-1965	13 years, 1966-1978	10 years, 1979-1988	11 years, 1989-1999	1933-99
Sub-Watershed	(mi <sup>2</sup> )	(t mi <sup>2</sup> yr)	(t mi <sup>2</sup> yr)	(t mi <sup>2</sup> yr)	(t mi <sup>2</sup> yr)	(t mi <sup>2</sup> yr)	(t mi <sup>2</sup> yr)	(t mi <sup>2</sup> yr)
<b>NORTH FORK TEN MILE</b>	<b>38.97</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>1,811</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>757</b>
pper North Fork Ten Mile River	10.40	0	153	395	27	21	9	108
Middle North Fork Ten Mile River	8.98	44	523	5536	115	4129	411	1837
ald Hill Creek	5.14	14	1094	988	858	439	66	591
Lower North Fork Ten Mile River	6.70	2863	1244	1149	284	161	92	917
Little North Fork Ten Mile River	7.75	933	229	512	246	96	110	348
<b>MIDDLE FORK TEN MILE</b>	<b>33.45</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>567</b>
pper Middle Fork Ten Mile River	11.64	0	583	1258	280	188	53	416
Middle Middle Fork Ten Mile River	6.45	87	724	2209	245	422	139	673
Little ear Haven Creek	3.00	0	883	725	551	248	41	417
ear Haven Creek	6.60	226	734	737	112	88	33	322
Lower Middle Fork Ten Mile River	5.76	2078	1565	1517	781	468	409	1110
<b>SOUTH FORK TEN MILE</b>	<b>38.39</b>	<b>2,167</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>605</b>
pper South Fork Ten Mile River	8.18	225	357	1009	302	207	22	370
Redwood Creek	7.87	1206	227	203	82	21	25	272
Churchman Creek	3.96	416	1770	926	532	338	207	683
Middle South Fork Ten Mile River	5.52	2340	769	1104	57	137	148	723
Campbell Creek	4.25	6300	1289	370	99	74	31	1222
Smith Creek	5.49	4905	1263	247	104	142	109	1013
Lower South Fork Ten Mile River	3.12	1152	70	13	13	0	72	196
<b>LOWER TEN MILE</b>	<b>8.83</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>603</b>
Mainstem Ten Mile River	4.28	2432	635	1269	308	41	73	770
Mill Creek	2.71	234	308	611	1239	1221	181	642
Ten Mile River Estuary	1.84	935	87	0	33	18	0	159
<b>TEN MILE RIVER WATERSHED</b>	<b>119.64</b>	<b>1,144</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>644</b>

Source: Matthews 2000

# TABLE 8

## EXISTING ROAD TYPES BY PLANNING WATERSHED AND SUB-WATERSHED

PLANNING WATERSHED		MILES F N C T E R T E				T T L W T T L SW R ENST		
Sub-Watershed	rainage rea	Highway	ermanent	Seasonal	Temporary	(mi)	(mi)	(mi mi <sup>2</sup> )
<b>NORTH FORK TEN MILE</b>	<b>38.97</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17.17</b>	<b>257.77</b>	<b>16.70</b>	<b>291.63</b>		<b>7.48</b>
pper North Fork Ten Mile River	10.40	0	0	55.40	6.67		62.07	5.97
Middle North Fork Ten Mile River	8.98	0	0	34.27	2.64		36.91	4.11
ald Hill Creek	5.14	0	2.04	25.99	1.06		29.09	5.66
Lower North Fork Ten Mile River	6.70	0	5.78	63.23	4.54		73.54	10.98
Little North Fork Ten Mile River	7.75	0	9.35	78.88	1.79		90.01	11.61
<b>MIDDLE FORK TEN MILE</b>	<b>33.45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9.53</b>	<b>243.50</b>	<b>2.80</b>	<b>255.83</b>		<b>7.65</b>
pper Middle Fork Ten Mile River	11.64	0	0	84.90	1.24		86.14	7.40
Middle Middle Fork Ten Mile River	6.45	0	1.76	31.28	0.79		33.83	5.24
Little ear Haven Creek	3.00	0	0.06	19.31	0		19.37	6.46
ear Haven Creek	6.60	0	0.04	72.32	0.16		72.52	10.99
Lower Middle Fork Ten Mile River	5.76	0	7.66	35.70	0.61		43.96	7.63
<b>SOUTH FORK TEN MILE</b>	<b>38.39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41.53</b>	<b>266.79</b>	<b>9.90</b>	<b>318.21</b>		<b>8.29</b>
pper South Fork Ten Mile River	8.18	0	4.00	50.87	1.38		56.2	6.88
Redwood Creek	7.87	0	4.30	59.68	3.78		67.8	8.61
Churchman Creek	3.96	0	1.96	27.35	0		29.3	7.40
Middle South Fork Ten Mile River	5.52	0	13.65	42.14	0.70		56.5	10.23
Campbell Creek	4.25	0	4.87	32.54	2.88		40.3	9.48
Smith Creek	5.49	0	4.82	36.92	0.59		42.3	7.71
Lower South Fork Ten Mile River	3.12	0	7.93	17.29	0.57		25.8	8.26
<b>LOWER TEN MILE</b>	<b>8.83</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>12.07</b>	<b>57.06</b>	<b>4.62</b>	<b>74.70</b>		<b>8.46</b>
Mainstem Ten Mile River	4.28	0	6.19	28.88	2.88		37.96	8.87
Mill Creek	2.71	0	0.59	21.44	1.74		23.78	8.77
Ten Mile River Estuary	1.84	0.96	5.28	6.73	0		12.97	7.05
<b>TOTAL TEN MILE WATERSHED</b>	<b>119.64</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>80.29</b>	<b>825.11</b>	<b>34.02</b>	<b>940.38</b>		<b>7.86</b>
of Total Roads		<b>0.10%</b>	<b>8.54%</b>	<b>87.74%</b>	<b>3.62%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

Notes: ase road data from C F, substantially added to and corrected to aerial mosaic by M .

Source: Matthews 2000

TABLE 10

## ROAD CONSTRUCTION HISTORY BY PLANNING WATERSHED AND AND SUB-WATERSHED

PLANNING WATERSHED Sub-Watershed	rainage rea	MILES OF ROAD CONSTRUCTED IN PERIOD						T T L W	T T L W	TERSHE	W or SW Road
		1942	1952	1965	1978	1988	1999	R SW (mi)	R (mi)	M LES (mi)	ensity (mi mi2)
<b>NORTH FORK TEN MILE</b>	<b>38.97</b>	<b>34.47</b>	<b>59.58</b>	<b>65.20</b>	<b>35.24</b>	<b>8.75</b>	<b>88.40</b>	<b>291.63</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	<b>7.48</b>	
% of PW Total		11.8%	20.4%	22.4%	12.1%	3.0%	30.3%				
pper North Fork Ten Mile River	10.40	0	10.58	23.50	12.10	7.05	8.83	62.07	6.60		5.97
Middle North Fork Ten Mile River	8.98	1.30	13.77	16.47	1.38	0.84	3.16	36.91	3.93		4.11
ald Hill Creek	5.14	0	15.10	3.36	1.70	0.39	8.53	29.09	3.09		5.66
Lower North Fork Ten Mile River	6.70	3.10	11.91	8.73	17.07	0.03	32.70	73.54	7.82		10.98
Little North Fork Ten Mile River	7.75	30.06	8.21	13.15	2.99	0.43	35.17	90.01	9.57		11.61
<b>MIDDLE FORK TEN MILE</b>	<b>33.45</b>	<b>11.85</b>	<b>85.36</b>	<b>28.03</b>	<b>33.97</b>	<b>9.25</b>	<b>87.37</b>	<b>255.83</b>	<b>27.2%</b>	<b>7.65</b>	
% of PW Total		4.6%	33.4%	11.0%	13.3%	3.6%	34.2%				
pper Middle Fork Ten Mile River	11.64	0	34.60	8.98	4.22	9.25	29.10	86.14	9.16		7.40
Middle Middle Fork Ten Mile River	6.45	0.39	15.17	4.40	2.72	0	11.15	33.83	3.60		5.24
Little ear Haven Creek	3.00	0.52	5.89	0	6.40	0	6.55	19.37	2.06		6.46
ear Haven Creek	6.60	3.22	20.69	5.50	16.17	0	26.95	72.52	7.71		10.99
Lower Middle Fork Ten Mile River	5.76	7.72	9.01	9.15	4.46	0	13.62	43.96	4.67		7.63
<b>SOUTH FORK TEN MILE</b>	<b>38.39</b>	<b>30.31</b>	<b>42.19</b>	<b>16.80</b>	<b>31.74</b>	<b>26.54</b>	<b>170.64</b>	<b>318.21</b>	<b>33.8%</b>	<b>8.29</b>	
% of PW Total		9.5%	13.3%	5.3%	10.0%	8.3%	53.6%				
pper South Fork Ten Mile River	8.18	1.82	7.61	0.78	7.29	0.16	38.59	56.2	5.98		6.88
Redwood Creek	7.87	3.97	12.03	3.67	0	7.94	40.16	67.8	7.21		8.61
Churchman Creek	3.96	0.34	7.20	2.92	0	0	18.84	29.3	3.12		7.40
Middle South Fork Ten Mile River	5.52	7.46	11.15	2.27	0.25	6.20	29.16	56.5	6.01		10.23
Campbell Creek	4.25	4.29	1.00	0	16.97	1.48	16.57	40.3	4.28		9.48
Smith Creek	5.49	5.18	1.84	4.84	1.34	8.77	20.35	42.3	4.50		7.71
Lower South Fork Ten Mile River	3.12	7.23	1.36	2.32	5.89	2.00	6.98	25.8	2.74		8.26
<b>LOWER TEN MILE</b>	<b>8.83</b>	<b>21.53</b>	<b>14.72</b>	<b>13.02</b>	<b>8.52</b>	<b>6.56</b>	<b>10.36</b>	<b>74.70</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>8.46</b>	
% of PW Total		28.8%	19.7%	17.4%	11.4%	8.8%	13.9%				
Mainstem Ten Mile River	4.28	11.61	8.98	5.65	0.80	6.22	4.69	37.96	4.04		8.87
Mill Creek	2.71	0.77	5.74	4.89	7.59	0.34	4.45	23.78	2.53		8.77
Ten Mile River Estuary	1.84	9.15	0	2.48	0.12	0	1.22	12.97	1.38		7.05
<b>TOTAL TEN MILE WATERSHED</b>	<b>119.64</b>	<b>98.15</b>	<b>201.84</b>	<b>123.05</b>	<b>109.47</b>	<b>51.10</b>	<b>356.76</b>	<b>940.38</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7.86</b>	
of Total Roads		10.44%	21.46%	13.08%	11.64%	5.43%	37.94%	100.00%			

Notes: ase road data from C F, substantially added to and corrected to aerial mosaic by M .  
 Eastern portion of watershed not covered by 1942 aerial photographs.  
 Road segments not codified by year by C F or mapped into specific period by ohn Coyle are all included in 1999 period.

Source: Matthews 2000

TABLE 11

**TEN MILE RIVER WATERSHED SEDIMENT SOURCE ANALYSIS**  
**Sediment Input Summary**

ER E R	INPUTS										ER E N T R TE (tons mi2 yr)	CHANGE IN STORAGE channel aggrad. degradation (tons)	OUTPUTS																						
	N N-M MT L N SL N L N SL N L N SL N (tons)			S RF CEER S N (tons)			FL N ER S N (tons)	T T L N N-M MT N TS (tons)		T T L M MT N TS (tons)			T T L N TS (tons)																						
1933-1942	31,890			1,336,000			1,368,000			89,700			131,400			46,720			239,200			360,790		1,514,120		1,875,000		1,568		304,000		1,360,000		1,137	
1943-1952	53,080			769,600			822,700			89,700			60,900			142,800			239,200			381,980		973,300		1,355,000		1,133		152,000		600,000		502	
1953-1965	26,470			1,858,000			1,884,000			116,600			43,000			261,800			311,000			454,070		2,162,800		2,616,000		1,683		304,000		1,956,000		1,258	
1966-1978	389			423,000			423,400			116,600			12,980			329,500			311,000			427,989		765,480		1,193,000		767		(152,000)		1,970,000		1,267	
1979-1988	5,525			583,300			588,800			89,700			1,930			220,200			239,200			334,425		805,430		1,140,000		953		(456,000)		1,007,000		842	
1989-1999	-			149,300			149,300			98,670			20,200			295,400			263,100			361,770		464,900		827,000		629		(152,000)		1,200,000		912	
	2			98			100																												
T T L	117,400			5,119,000			5,236,000			601,000			270,400			1,296,000			1,603,000			2,321,400		6,685,400		9,007,000		1,124		-		8,093,000		Mean field 1,015	

## Notes:

- All values rounded to four significant figures, except calculations for total inputs and load unit rates.
- Mass Wasting derived from landslides mapped from aerial photographs taken at the end of each budget period. Eastern portions of the watershed were not covered by the photographs in 1942, though the area was relatively undisturbed. See text for details.
- background rates (containing creep, surface erosion by sheetwash and rilling, and deep-seated landslide components) based on work of Roberts and Church (1986) and Cafferata Stillwater Sciences (pers. Comm. 1999). Rate used is 75 tons mi<sup>2</sup> yr.
- Skid roads based on measured harvest areas on the 1942, 1952, 1965, 1978, 1988 and 1999 aerial photographs, delineated into 3 classes of skid road density. Harvest areas after 1988 are computed from S coverages developed by C. F.
- Road erosion computed from measured road miles in 1942, 1952, 1965, 1978, 1988, and 1999 aerial photographs. Roads after 1988 are based on S coverage developed from TH submitted to C. F., corrected to 1999 aerial mosaic developed by M.
- bank erosion is based on a rate of 200 tons mi<sup>2</sup> yr. This category includes bank erosion and smaller streamside mass movements under the canopy and generally not visible on aerial photography.
- Change in storage represents estimates of net change in channel dimensions based on aerial photographs, multiplied by length of alluvial reach
- Sediment outflow computed from regional suspended sediment and bedload transport equations developed as described in the text and applied to combined synthetic flow records for the period 1952-1997. pre-1952 values based on correlation with annual precipitation.
- Non Management Landsliding includes only forest categories. actual non-management related landsliding could be higher: some landslides classified as 20 yr old harvest may be non management related
- Non Management inputs include non management landsliding, background rates), and bank erosion. Some bank erosion is probably management related, but it is not possible to identify quantities.

Source: M 2000

**TABLE 12**

**TEN MILE RIVER WATERSHED SEDIMENT SOURCE ANALYSIS**  
**Sediment Input Summary-Average Annual Unit Area Rates**

E R E R	INPUTS																																				
	N N-M MT				M MT				M MT				T T L				FL	L E R S N	T T L			T T L			T T L												
	L N SL N				L N SL N				L N SL N				L N SL N						N N-M MT			M MT				N TS											
	(tons mi2 yr)				(tons)				(tons mi2 yr)				(tons mi2 yr)						(tons mi2 yr)			(tons mi2 yr)				(tons mi2 yr)											
1933-1942	27				1,337,114				1,118				1,144				75			110			39			200			302			1,267			1,568		
1943-1952	44				769,622				643				688				75			51			119			200			319			814			1,133		
1953-1965	17				1,857,526				1,195				1,211				75			28			168			200			292			1,391			1,683		
1966-1978	0				423,011				272				272				75			8			212			200			275			492			767		
1979-1988	5				583,275				488				492				75			2			184			200			280			673			953		
1989-1999	-				149,300				113				113				75			15			225			200			275			353			629		
1989-1999	36								78				113				75			15			225			200			311			318			629		
					292																																
T T L	15				5,119,000				639				653				75			34			162			200			290			834			1,124		
T T L	36								618				653				75			34			162			200			311			813			1,124		
	using average 1933-1952 rate				57																																

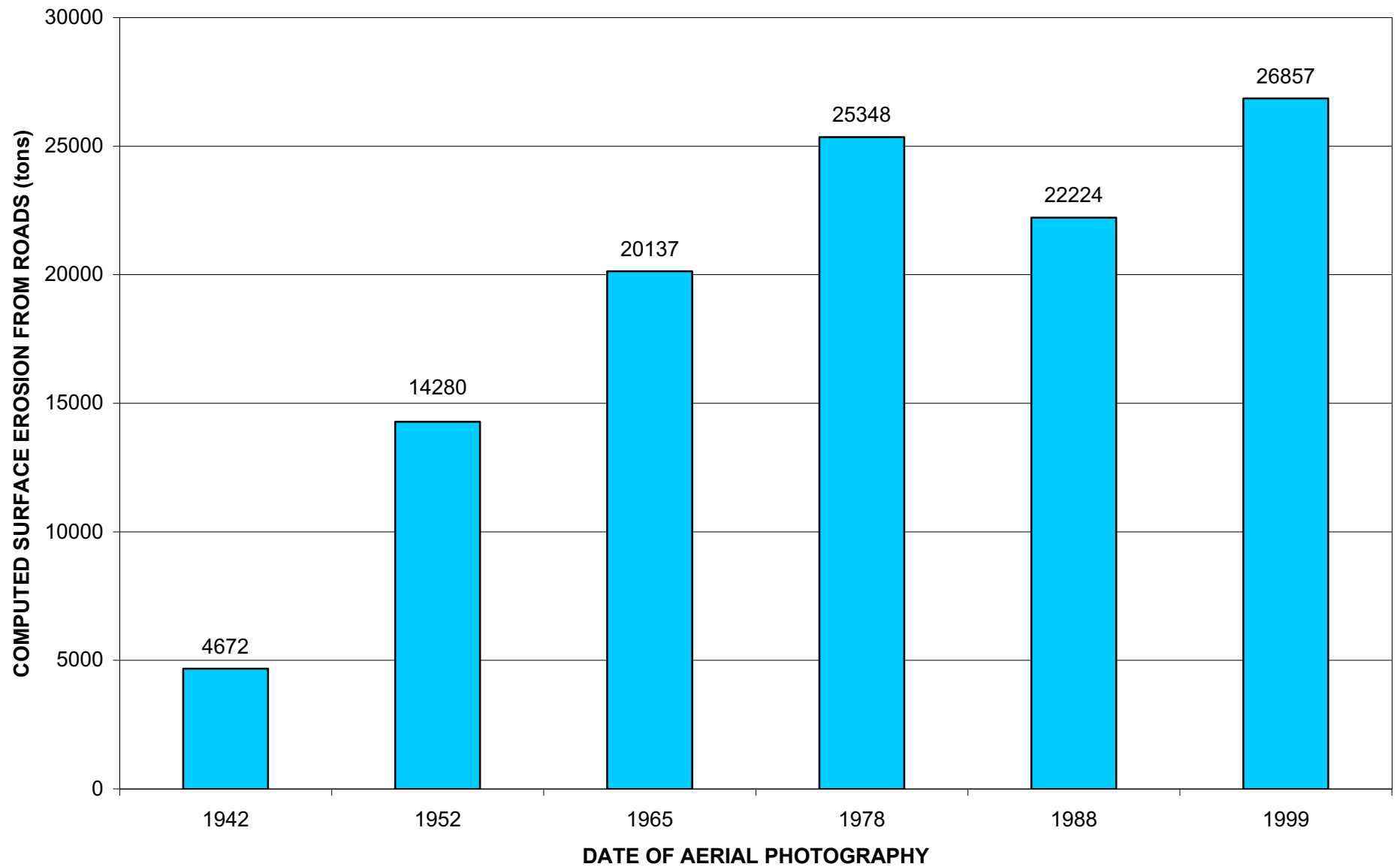
## FIGURES

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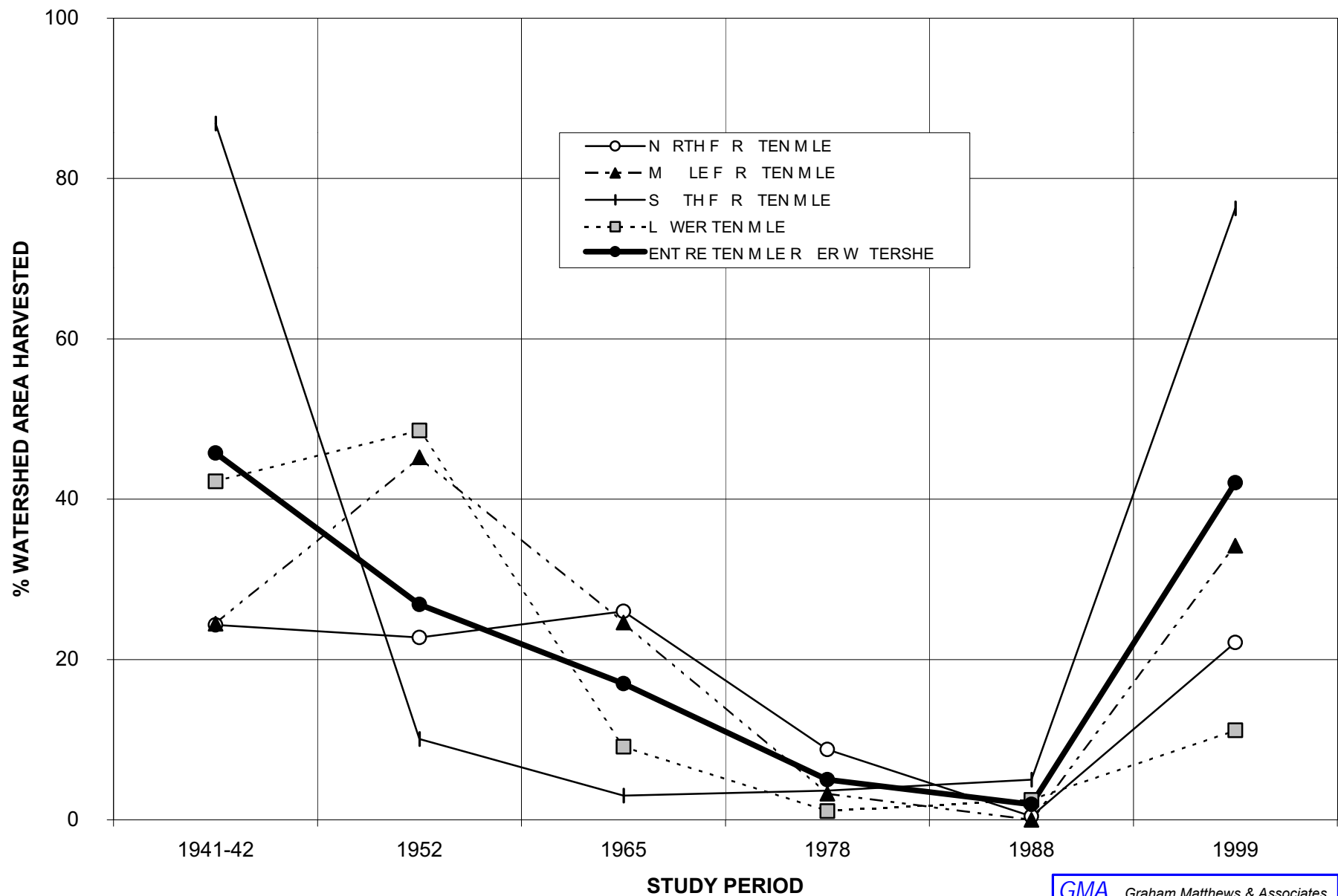
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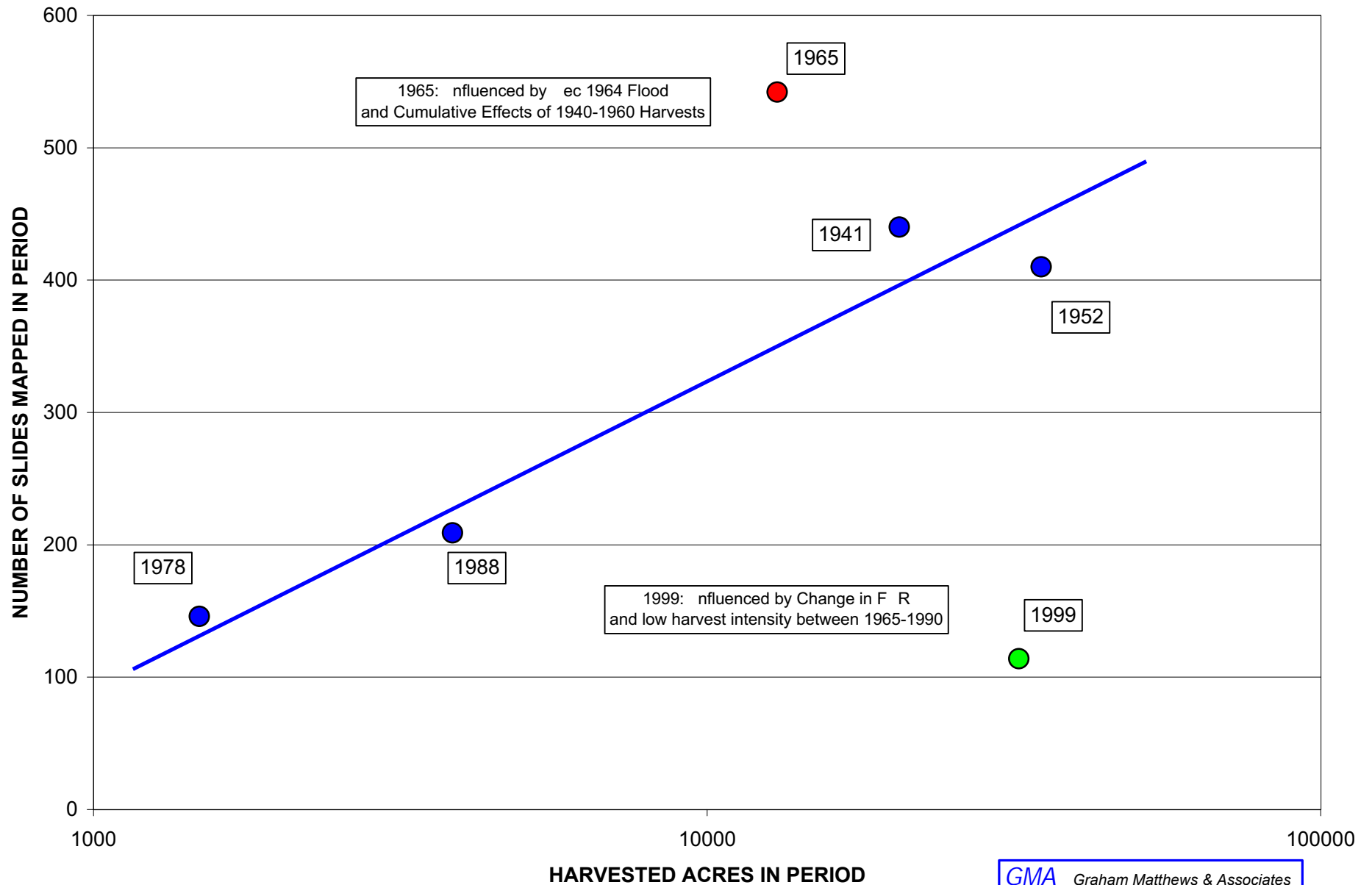
**FIGURE 3**  
**TEN MILE RIVER SEDIMENT SOURCE ANALYSIS**  
Computed Road Surface Erosion by Study period



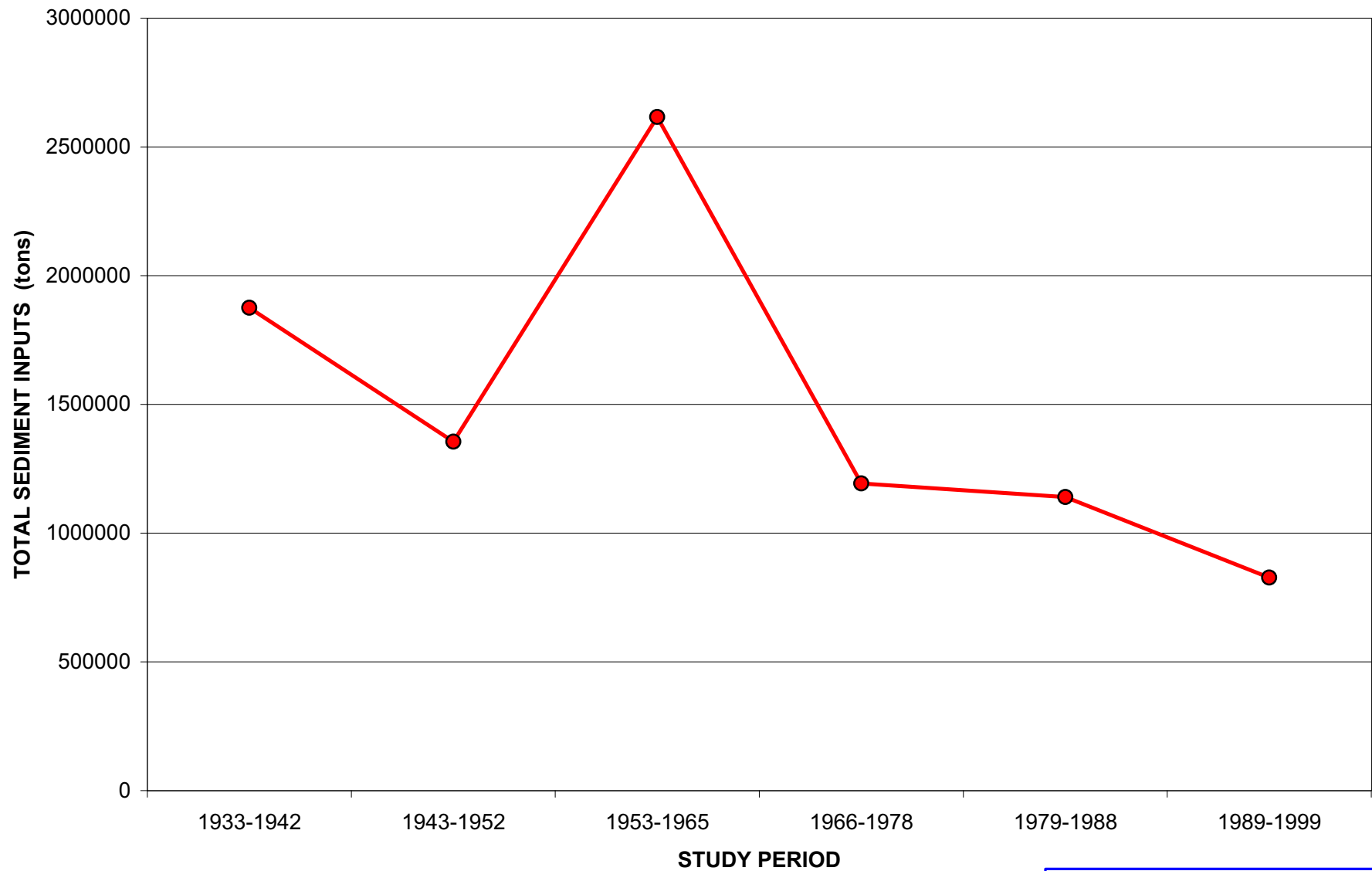
**FIGURE 4**  
**TEN MILE RIVER SEDIMENT SOURCE ANALYSIS**  
 Harvest History of Lanning Watersheds by Study Period



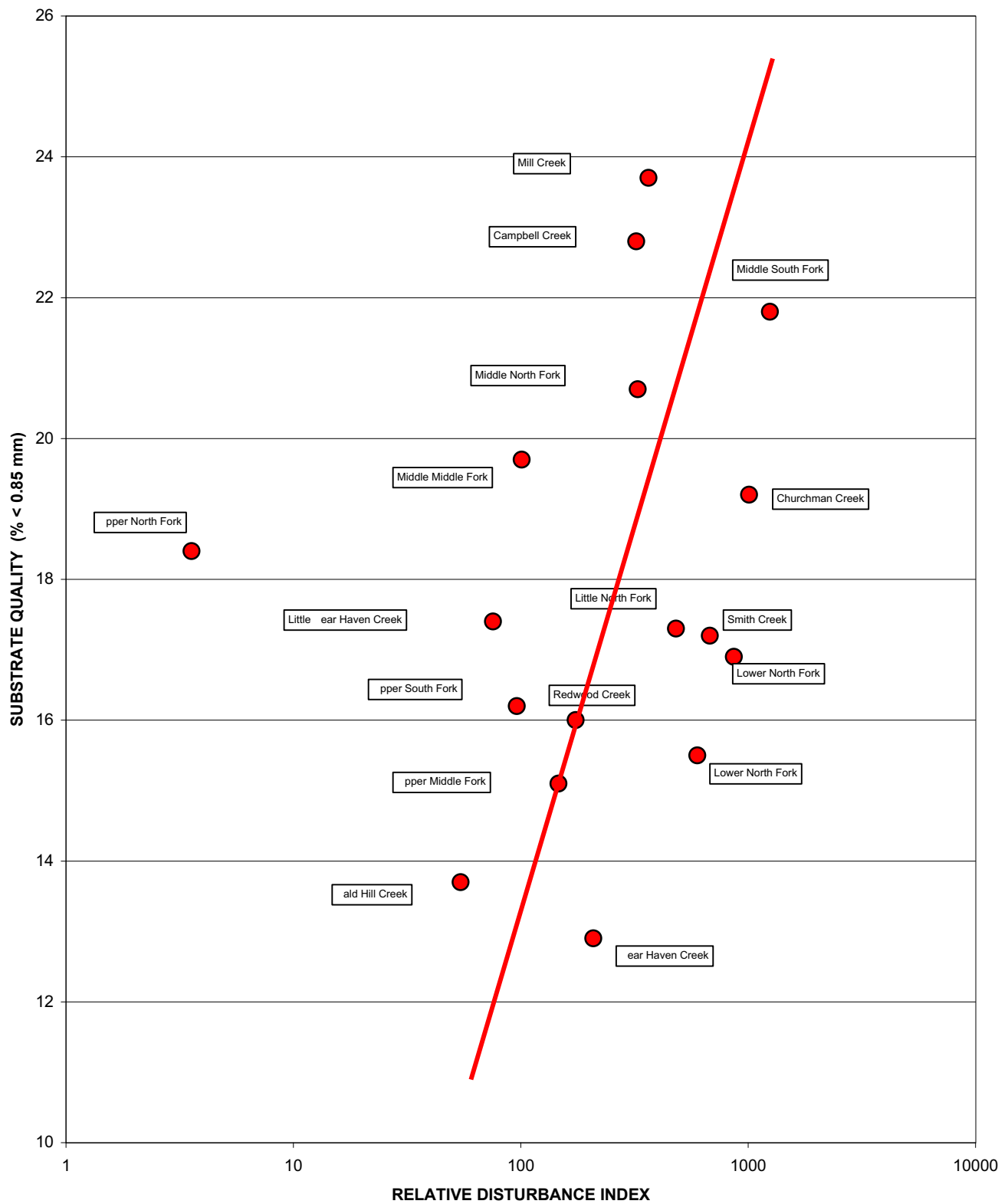
**FIGURE 5**  
**TEN MILE RIVER SEDIMENT SOURCE ANALYSIS**  
Harvest acreage vs. Number of Slides for analysis periods



**FIGURE 6**  
**TEN MILE RIVER SEDIMENT SOURCE ANALYSIS**  
Estimated Total Sediment Inputs by Study Period



**FIGURE 7**  
**TEN MILE RIVER SEDIMENT SOURCE ANALYSIS**  
REL T E ST R NCE N E S.S STR TE LT



**FIGURE 8**  
**TEN MILE RIVER WATERSHED**

REL T E S T R N C E N E S S S T R T E L T

